



R. Conway R. A. del.

M.^{re} Bovi sculp. pupillo F. Bartolozzi.

HENRY SWINBURNE ESQ.^R

17645
S U P P L E M E N T

T O

K
M R. S W I N B U R N E ' s

T R A V E L S T H R O U G H S P A I N .

B E I N G A

J O U R N E Y

F R O M

B A Y O N N E

T O

M A R S E I L L E S .

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY J. DAVIS,
FOR P. ELMSLY, IN THE STRAND.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

SUPPLEMENT

W. W. BURNES

TRAVELLER'S HANDBOOK

BEING

A GUIDE TO THE

TOURIST'S



C O N T E N T S

OF A JOURNEY FROM

B A Y O N N E to M A R S E I L L E S.

I	INTRODUCTION	page 3
Letter		
I.	Passage of the Bidassoa—S. Jean de Luz—the Basques—their language—Bayonne—journey to Tarbes	5
II.	Tarbes—states of Bigorre—history of Bigorre—character of the people	8
III.	Journey to Bagneres—husbandry—Bagneres	10
IV.	Baths	13
V.	Journey into the heart of the Pyrenean mountains—convent of Medous—valley of Campan—grotto—cascades of Grip—source of the Adour—Bareges—its waters—vale of Luz—baths of S. Sauveur	15
VI.	Pas to Gabarnie—source of the Gave—bridge of snow—pas to Pierrefitte	18
VII.	Plain of Argillas—baths of Cauterets—castle of Lourdes—pilgrimage of Betharan—Pau—the castle—states of Bearn	22
VIII.	Oleron—valley of Aspe—Mature of Escout—method of cutting the masts—return to Tarbes	25
IX.	Excursion to the top of the Pic du Midy	27
X.	Journey to Bagneres de Luchon—forest of firs—Arreou—bear-hunt—baths of Bagneres de Luchon—vale—vale of the Garonne—S. Bertrand—abbey of Escaldiou—Stock-doves	29
XI.	Journey from Bagneres to Toulouse—description of the city—disposition of the inhabitants—mills—new canal—bridge—devout turn of the people—clergy—penitents—origin of the inquisition—vaults of the Cordeliers—Capitouls Jeux Floraux—town-hall	33
XII.	Journey to Montpellier—royal canal of Languedoc—Carcassonne—cloth manufacture—Narbonne—trade—the Malpas—Beziers—Pefenas	36
XIII.	Public walks of Montpellier—states of Languedoc—climate—commerce	41
XIV.	History—mountain of S. Loup	44
XV.	Journey to Marseilles—Lund—Aiguesmortes—Nimes—amphitheatre—temple of Diana—fountain—Tourmagne	47
XVI.	Maison Quarrée—cabinet of M. Seguiet	50
XVII.	History of Nimes	52
XVIII.	Excursion to Arles—its history—buildings—antiquities—amphitheatre—cemetery called Eliscamps—dress of the women	55
XIX.	Pont du Gard—the Rhone—Avignon	59
XX.	Description of the city—its history	61
XXI.	Vaucluse—Orange—triumphal arch—theatre	65
XXII.	St. Remy—mausolium—arch—Lambese—Aix—walks—churches—mineral waters—view towards the sea	68
XXIII.	Marseilles—history—description—harbour—Lazaretto—character—trade	71

C O N T E N T S

OF A JOURNEY FROM

SAVOY TO THE MOUNTAINS OF THE ALPS

INTRODUCTION

- I. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—1
- II. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—2
- III. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—3
- IV. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—4
- V. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—5
- VI. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—6
- VII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—7
- VIII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—8
- IX. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—9
- X. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—10
- XI. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—11
- XII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—12
- XIII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—13
- XIV. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—14
- XV. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—15
- XVI. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—16
- XVII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—17
- XVIII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—18
- XIX. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—19
- XX. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—20
- XXI. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—21
- XXII. The Alps of the Pyrenees—St. Jean de Luz—the Pyrenees—Bordeaux—Paris—London—22

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

THE following pages might have served as a prelude to my Neapolitan tour, but at the time of its appearance, I was extremely unwilling to undertake a description of any part of France, and therefore, instead of continuing the account of my Travels from the confines of Spain, I chose to commence my narrative, at the instant of our leaving Marseilles. France is a kingdom so often visited by English travellers, that I had little hopes of collecting new materials either for entertainment or instruction; but I am since become conscious that this omission destroys the connection between my Letters on Spain and my Travels in Italy, and hurries my reader too abruptly from the Ocean to the Mediterranean sea. To supply this deficiency, I now publish my observations on the intervening provinces, and hope they will fill up the chasm in a satisfactory manner, and thus form one regular and well-connected series of travels.

INTRODUCTION

THE following pages might have served as a preface to my *Isopodan* tour, but at the time of its appearance, I was extremely unwilling to undertake a description of any part of France, and therefore, instead of continuing the account of my travels from the confines of Spain, I chose to commence my narrative, at the instant of our leaving Marseilles. France is a kingdom so often visited by English travellers, that I had little hopes of collecting new materials either for entertainment or instruction; but I am here become conscious that this omission destroys the connection between my letters on Spain and my travels in Italy, and hinders my reader too abruptly from the Ocean to the Mediterranean sea. To supply this deficiency, I now publish my observations on the interesting provinces, and hope they will fill up the chain in a satisfactory manner, and thus form one regular and well-connected series of travels.

J O U R N E Y

F R O M

B A Y O N N E

T O

M A R S E I L L E S.

L E T T E R I.

Tarbes, June 22, 1776.

AFTER completing a circle of sixteen hundred miles, I am at length returned to the point from which I took my departure in October. My last letter informed you briefly, that I had passed the limits of the Spanish dominions, and was once more landed on the territories of France. These monarchies are divided by the waters of the Bidassoa, impetuous and difficult at high tide, but at other times, clear and placid, flowing through a delicious vale, that ill accords with the ideas generally entertained of the boundaries between two mighty empires: the ease with which we were ferried over, and the absence of all military parade, rendered it still more unlike; but no sooner did we set foot on French ground, than we were made sensible of the separation; a most rigorous search of our baggage took place; the serenity of the weather was a fortunate circumstance, for every article belonging to us was taken out of the trunks, and spread upon the grass; the collecting and stowing of them again in their respective places, consumed the best part of the day, and night overtook us before we could reach Saint Jean de Luz.* The situation of this town is charming. The Ninette falls into the sea at

* Luz, or Luis, signifies mud in Basque, very characteristic of the soil.

a small

a small distance below, having first swelled out into a double bay, capable of admitting vessels of considerable tonnage; but its entrance is difficult, and the road dangerous in stormy weather. The shore is lined with buildings, and sheltered by hills of moderate elevation, which rise gently all around, contrasting their green slopes and woody summits with this grand expanse of water. The adjacent country is highly and variously cultivated, and the Pyrenean mountains, which display softer features than eminences of similar height usually possess, close in the back ground with pleasing dignity.

The language peculiar to the province of Labour* is Basque, which, I am informed, bears little affinity to any of the neighbouring dialects, and claims a lineal descent from the aboriginal tongue of the Cantabrians. I fear no monuments remain to guide etymologists in a research how far this claim is admissible, or how much the language is altered, improved, or degenerated from the old stock: it abounds in vowels, and its sounds are soft and musical.

The spirit of their ancestors still lives in the Basques and their neighbours the Biscayners, who boast of the same origin: all we read in ancient history of the agility, perseverance, and industry, of the Cantabrians, may be recognized at this day in every part of these provinces. Their early habits of exercise improve the neatness of limb and flexibility of muscles which distinguish them when adults: if they dance to the sound of their native tambourine, the fire of their character pervades and animates the whole frame. Ancient Greece herself could not present her painters and sculptors with models of more exquisite elegance than the young women of this country; a flowing white veil fastened with bunches of red ribbons, and the freedom which their short garments leave for every movement, enhance the natural beauty of their form.

From Saint Jean to Bayonne the landscape is delightful, the soil rich in productions of many kinds, the surface pleasantly uneven and crowned with noble woods, but the roads from the banks of the Bidassoa are insufferably bad. I cannot account for this uncommon neglect either on political or oeconomic principles, especially as the highways in the next Spanish province, are judiciously made, and carefully maintained. Can it proceed from the inveteracy of ancient habits, which perpetuates the nuisance, and prevents the present set of ministers from thinking themselves authorized to facilitate

* A corruption of *Lapurdum*, the ancient name of Bayonne.

a communication, which their predecessors had wisely rendered as difficult as possible? Our carriages, which had passed unbroken over the rocks of Valencia, and through the clays of Andalusia, were shattered to pieces during this short journey.

* Bayonne is situated three miles from the Bay of Biscay, at the conflux of the rivers Adorer and Nive, both navigable; but their mouth is embarrassed with shifting sands, which it requires the skill of an experienced pilot to avoid. The hills on each side are defended by fortifications, traced after the plans of Marshal Vauban, in order to render impregnable a place that was long the Key of France, and as such frequently but unsuccessfully attempted by the Spaniards: although every apprehension from that quarter has ceased since the crown of Spain has been fixed on the brow of a prince of the Bourbon line, the works are nevertheless kept up, and a considerable garrison maintained to man them. Twenty-six thousand inhabitants are computed to reside in Bayonne, near four thousand of which are of the Jewish persuasion: when this persecuted race of men was driven out of Spain and Portugal, great numbers of them took refuge here; they increased so rapidly, as soon to feel the necessity of sending forth a colony to Bordeaux, where it has flourished surprisingly by brokerage and privateering.

Bayonne was an independant viscounty till subdued by the kings of England, dukes of Aquitaine: in 1450, when they were stripped of all their continental possessions, it passed with the rest under the dominion of Charles the Seventh, king of France. Commerce is here carried on with great spirit; the neighbouring provinces of France draw a large proportion of their foreign commodities from this port, and send hither in return their superfluous productions to be forwarded to a proper market; but the most lucrative branches of its traffic are supported by an intercourse with Spain. A great number of ships are built here, as many materials for construction are to be had at the first hand. In war-time Bayonne fits out stout and well-appointed privateers, and in days of peace its mariners approve themselves hardy and industrious in commercial pursuits; they were the first that attempted the whale and Newfoundland fisheries, and invented the method of curing cod; they discovered Canada, and penetrated into the heart of

* Bayonne signifies in Basque a *good Bay*.

that vast and savage region, by sailing up the river of Saint Laurence, thus opening a new scene for the ambition and animosity of two rival nations.

The coachmaker having pronounced our chaises incapable of proceeding, without great repairs, we rode post to Tarbes : the haste we made to reach this city, and the intense heat of the day, precluded all observations on the places we passed through.

L E T T E R II.

Tarbes, June 29.

TARBES, the capital of the province of Bigorre, is an open city widely spread in the center of a large plain : it has more the appearance of a great village than of an episcopal see. The waters of the Adour, which are conducted through it in various channels, procure signal conveniences to the inhabitants, but render the air damp and chilly.

The cathedral is very ancient, and supposed to occupy the site of *Begora*, or *Castrum Begorrense*, whence the country derives its name ; its bishop sat among the prelates of the council held at Agde in 506. The ruins of a castle fill part of the central division of the town, to which the other quarters were originally suburbs.

The general assembly of the states of Bigorre meets annually at Tarbes, whose prelate is their perpetual president ; the other members are seven abbots or priors, two commanders of the order of Malthe, twelve barons, and twenty-eight deputies of towns*. Each branch of administration has its vote, and two out of the three suffice to carry a point. In these assemblies all public business is discussed, and all assessments made. In countries that enjoy the privilege of meeting annually, taxation and expenditure are generally managed in a manner less onerous to the subject, than in those provinces, which, having been long the peculiar domain of the French monarch, or

* This is the account I received in the country. The geographical descriptions of Bigorre compose the states of one bishop, four abbots, one commander, twelve barons, some gentlemen, and the deputies of the townships.

acquired by conquest, retain no traces of liberty, and are abandoned to the merciless rule of financiers.

The little freedom still apparent in Bigorre is the ghost of that constitution, which the ancient inhabitants maintained in full force against the efforts of several races of sovereigns, all of whom felt a desire of subverting it, but either failed in the attempt, or foresaw that their safety depended upon their compliance with the established regulations. The Bigorri were a people of Gaul, classed by the Romans among the nations of the third Aquitania. In the ninth century, a particular count or governor was first sent to preside over them, and in the common course of events, the power of these counts became hereditary. Towards the close of the fourteenth century, this province was united to the viscounty of Bearn; it afterwards formed a part of the dominions of Navarre, and with that kingdom fell to the crown of France, by the accession of Henry the Fourth.

The people of Bigorre have a warm attachment to the place of their birth, and seldom fail to return to it with the money they have earned in various parts of the kingdom, in order to purchase a little land, and wind off the remnants of the clew of life, among the companions of their youth. Cookery is a favourite profession of theirs, but in every trade they become conspicuous by their industry. They are far from a comely race, and when advanced in years are troubled with wens on the throat; their stature is rather below what the English esteem the middle size; but they are muscular and active, and dance with uncommon spirit and precision. In summer they go barefoot, though the soil is full of stones, and only put on slippers when about to dance. Their clothes are always neat and in good condition, their circumstances being much easier than those of the French peasantry in other provinces; the women wear a red hood, that fits the head like a nun's veil, and falls down to the waist. In the district of Ossun the men still adhere to the mode of dress that prevailed in the reign of Henry the Fourth, and probably in times of much greater antiquity; a small round bonnet, a brown jacket and doublet laced down the seams with white, red cuffs, and trunk-hose, distinguish them from all their neighbours; they are principally employed as carriers, and have long enjoyed the reputation of unfulled honesty.

The provincial dialect of Bigorre is extremely uncouth to the ear of a stranger. Though I believe the wealthier inhabitants of Bigorre are neither
B
possessed

possessed of more probity, nor lead more irreproachable lives than those of the northern parts of France, there appears to exist a greater fund of honour and honesty among the inferior ranks, at least as far as concerns pecuniary transactions among themselves: several customs and traits that have come to my knowledge confirm this opinion, one of which I shall quote for its singularity. When a peasant A, the owner of a few sheep or cows, is distressed for ready money, either to complete a purchase of land, or for the immediate sustenance of his family, he applies to some richer neighbour B, and offers to sell him his stock *en gazaille*. If the proposal be accepted, the property is valued and the price paid down; but notwithstanding this transfer, the seller A retains possession, and pays B, by way of interest, half the profits upon the wool and young produced; the milk remains the perquisite of A. The buyer may at any time claim and drive away his cattle, which however A has in his option to repurchase; if he decline this offer, an estimate is made, and whatever the property may have gained is equally shared between them, as the loss, if any, falls equally upon both parties. If the *gazaille* die by any common disorder, is devoured by wild beasts, or dashed to pieces by a fall into a precipice, A makes good the damage; but an epidemical distemper affects the interests of B exclusively. Touching in the hand constitutes the whole ceremony of the agreement, and such bargains are inviolably adhered to.

L E T T E R III.

Bagnères de Bigorre, July 28.

WE removed from Tarbes to drink the mineral waters, and spend the hot months among these mountains. The road hither is excellent, and passes through a rapid succession of grand, romantic, and pleasing prospects, where the uncommon richness of the soil is ably seconded by the intelligent industry of the cultivators. Near Tarbes the plain is so extensive, that the range of hills on each side scarce engage the attention; a large portion of its flat surface is covered with pollard cherry trees, serving as props to the vines, while Turkey wheat occupies the ground below. Not a spot of land is suffered

to lie in unprofitable idleness, except where the Adour has desolated the plains with its irresistible torrents that rush down from the mountains on the melting of the snows. We gradually drew near the entrance of a valley, the hills, as it were, approached towards us, and each lofty summit became more distinctly marked; the way soon grew less level, and the face of the country was hidden by woods of tall oak; in the midst of these groves are numerous villages, delicious habitations in summer, for every cottage is shaded by a clump of trees, and every garden is refreshed by copious streams of limpid water; the ground rises gently towards hills neatly cultivated, and strewed with a beautiful variety of productions. At length the vale narrows to a point like the bottom of a net, and is entirely closed up by the buildings of Bagneres; an awful pile of mountains rudely thrown together, presses behind upon the green woody heights that overhang the town: the low lands before it are covered with crops of divers sorts of grain, but chiefly abound in Turkey wheat: the method of managing it is to raise the seed in garden beds, then plant out the shoots in the fields, towards the end of May, in rows two feet distant from each other; as soon as they have acquired strength sufficient, and the flowers appear, kidney beans are set at the foot of each plant; hence forward it serves as a pole for the bean, which is gathered before the maize is fit to remove. In September, the fruit-bearing part of the plant being impregnated, the stalk that produced the pollen is cut away, and with all the leaves used as fodder for cattle; the remainder is left till October, a bare stalk to ripen its seed. Millet is sown on the plots that have already yielded flax or early corn; it ripens in October, when the second crop of flax begins to appear above ground. Corn is reaped with sickles or scythes, and then spread very thin over the field; in a few days it is carried home in carts, if a road can be made, or in crates on the heads of the women; then as many hands as can be procured, are employed in threshing it out upon earthen floors, with light flails. In these vallies the husbandman tears out his stubbles by means of a triangular harrow armed with strong iron teeth turned forwards; a thick oaken saplin bowed double serves him to press down the harrow, and to lift it up occasionally, to shake off the clods; two oxen draw this machine, under the guidance of a girl, who walks on singing and knitting. This process drags away the weeds in this light soil, and prepares the ground for the plough. The operation of ploughing is performed very tenderly, for there is but a scanty

B 2.

covering.

covering of good earth above a shivery stratum; two oxen, cows, horses, and, not unfrequently, asses, are yoked together by means of a wooden bar, which keeps them at such a distance asunder, that they cannot trample on the rows of plants between which they move.

All the meadows, even on the declivities of the mountains, are watered by small cuts from the springs or rivers, and produce annually two crops of hay, the first extremely abundant: the fields in the plain admit of a third mowing in October.

Bagnères contains about three thousand inhabitants; they subsist comfortably upon their paternal inheritances and the money they amass from the annual visits of strangers who resort hither to drink or bathe in its waters. It is surrounded with old walls, and is tolerably built, but the streets are narrow and crooked; the quantity of water that runs through them renders the town cool and pleasant in summer, but in winter it is exceedingly cold on account of the vicinity of the mountains, and the heavy falls of snow, that remain several months upon the ground. It has no buildings of any note. The Adour is here a fierce torrent; its waters are white like those of all mountain streams proceeding from snows; they are diverted at several places from their natural course, and conveyed in channels across the plain, and through the town, where they are employed in numberless useful operations.

Bagnères derives its name from the mineral baths, which were known and frequented by the ancient Romans, as many inscriptions and monuments still existing on the spot, satisfactorily demonstrate; the most explicit is to be seen in the square, dedicated to the nymphs of these salutiferous waters.

NYMPHISPROSALVTESVASEVERSERANVSLSM.

The peasants of the neighbourhood are a lively race, and often assemble in a shady walk near the gates to dance. One of the Queens of Navarre remitted all fines upon alienation of property at Bagnères, on condition that a small sum should be levied upon each person admitted to his freedom, and spent in bonfires and other merry expences at Midsummer.

The situation of this place is happily calculated for all exercises that tend to the recovery of health; it is built in a flat and upon a very dry soil; every part of it enjoys an easy communication with the fields, the banks of the river, or the high roads, where the weaker sort of visitants may breathe
I the

the fresh air, and regain strength by moderate exertions ; while the more vigorous, who repair to Bagneres for the sake of amusement, may climb delightful hills, and wander among shady groves through a never-ending variety of landscape. The plain and eminences are traversed by innumerable paths accessible to horsemen as well as foot-passengers ; the high grounds are not like those in the Alps, broken and precipitous, but easily sloped, and clothed with soft and pleasant verdure. The timber that crowns their summits is of the noblest size. In the heart of cultivation, and near the foot of the mountains, the Spanish chestnut predominates intermingled with cherry, walnut, and other fruit trees, round which the vine entwines its tendrils. Higher up the extent of pasture becomes more considerable ; the middle regions of the mountains are darkened with woods of beech overhung by forests of silver fir, and above all, black pinnacles of rocks shoot up to a frightful height, with here and there a wreath of snow preserved unmelted through the summer by the protection of their shade. That side of the mountains which faces the noon tide sun is richly covered with wood, but the opposite slope is seldom so beautiful, for it produces fewer trees and those of a stunted growth ; the greatest part of these forests is the common property of the neighbouring villages, and as high as carriage can be easily contrived, is cut after a regular but careless manner, for the supply of fuel, and the purposes of husbandry.

L E T T E R IV.

I HAVE reserved the principal merit of Bagneres for the last part of my description, and shall devote this letter to its medicinal waters ; they alone have rescued this valley from the obscurity which involves so many neighbouring beautiful districts ; a great number of boiling, lukewarm, and cold streams, issue out of the sides of the mountain that covers the town on the western aspect ; all of them possess, or are supposed to possess, very strong healing qualities, which each patient applies with great confidence to his particular disorder, under the directions of the physicians of the place. The summit of this mountain is indented with a large hollow, similar to the
crater

crater of a volcano, and I have no doubt but fire has been emitted from this cup at some period beyond the reach of history; the fire which was then sufficient to produce explosions, and to cast forth torrents of lava, still retains the power, in its weaker state, of imparting virtue in various degrees to the mineral springs that flow from the mountain where its focus is established.*

The number of wells and baths amounts to thirty; some are covered in for the use of patients that can afford to pay for their cures. Others are open pools, where the poorer class gargle their ulcerous throats, or lave their sores, gratis. The heat of some spouts is at first almost insupportable, but gradually grows less painful. I have seen people expose their diseased limbs to the boiling stream for more than a quarter of an hour at a time. The hottest spring raises the quicksilver in Fahrenheit's thermometer to 123 degrees, while the coolest causes it to ascend no higher than 86. Out of the thirty different sources, two are exactly equal in heat to that of the human body, ten below, and eighteen above it. Their medicinal qualities differ no less essentially than their degrees of heat; for the waters of the Queen's bath are strongly purgative, those of Salut and Le Pré diuretic and cooling. The bath of Salut is situated about a mile from the town, among the mountains; a pleasant winding road leads to it, through beautiful fields planted with clumps of chestnut trees. The houses and groves on the surrounding hills cheer the prospect; but in so hot a season, and in this latitude, an avenue would be a great improvement and relief to the patients. The spring is copious and equal to the demands of the crowds that flock round it on holidays, when every person may drink his fill for the value of three farthings English: the vogue is so great, that two guineas have been taken in one morning, at this low price. From the drinking place the waters are conveyed into two marble troughs, which are in constant use during the whole season. Seniority of residence constitutes the right of bathing, and therefore many late comers, who foresee but a distant prospect of being

* When I visited the Pyrenees, I had little acquaintance with volcanoes, their distinctive features and productions, therefore I can bring no proofs, but analogy, of their pristine existence near Bagneres; the circular lakes on the mountains, the hot, sulphureous vapours and waters, the caverns, basins, and forms of the ground, are the tokens, which, being impressed on my memory, convince me that volcanoes have in remote ages disturbed the face of that country. The knowledge requisite for discovering volcano traces in rocks, soils, and minerals, is almost unattainable without a visit to those regions where nature is actually employed in those tremendous operations.

accommodated

accommodated with an hour of Salut, take up with the other baths of inferior reputation, but perhaps equal efficacy. The degree of heat of Salut is $88\frac{1}{2}$; when evaporated by a slow equal fire, the surface of its water is covered with a pellicle formed by small insipid crystals, which towards the completion of the evaporation acquire considerable acridity. These waters contain no particles of iron, but small parallelopiped pyrites are frequently found in them, of a bright golden colour, and about an inch long.

L E T T E R V.

Bagnères, Aug. 15.

I Returned yesterday from a journey on horseback, through the most romantic and curious part of the Pyrenees, and hasten to impart my observations, while each idea is still impressed with force on *the tablet of my memory*.

I set out on the sixth with some friends, and travelled up the valley; the low grounds are finely cultivated; numberless streams pour across the road, and hurry to blend their waters with those of the Adour, which is here confined to a narrow bed; beyond it eastward, the mountains are covered with beautiful verdure; at their foot stands Asté, a village belonging to the family of Grammont. *

A peasant, who resides here, earns a livelihood by supplying the apothecaries with medicinal plants, which he gathers on the adjacent mountains, particularly that of Lieris, justly celebrated for the immense and variegated show of flowers, that cover its elevated pastures, before sheep and cattle are let in to graze. The convent of capuchins, at Medous, opposite Asté, is placed so closely under a mountain, that in winter it enjoys but two hours sunshine in the whole day; its garden is remarkable for a large volume of water, that

* In 1530 the Lord of the valley of Aure acquired the viscounty of Asté by marriage, and his son married the heiress of Grammont, a family that bore a distinguished part in the troubles of Navarre, in the 15th century. Their descendants assumed the name and arms of Grammont.

issues out of the rocks; trouts are often seen swimming down the stream, but if disturbed, they retire into the bowels of the mountain, to some subterraneous lake. The populousness of this vale is scarce credible: in the extent of three miles I reckoned near five hundred houses, or barns. The burgh of Campan gives name to the upper district, and is famous for the excellency of its butter; it acknowledges no lord but the king, and has considerable woods and cultivated lands, appertaining to its community.

At a small distance above the town, we were conducted to a celebrated grotto, in the side of a bare mountain: the entrance is narrow and sloping, but at the depth of ten feet the floor of the cavern lies nearly on a level: the vault seldom exceeds nine feet in height; its length is an hundred and four yards; the path wet and rugged; the walls and roof incrustated with chrysalizations; but all that were curious for size, shape, or beauty of colour, had been broken off and carried away by preceding travellers. At the end of the grotto we found a marble slab, fixed up by order of the countess of Brionne, to commemorate, that after infinite labour, she, with her family and servants, whose names are all consigned to immortality on this subterraneous monument, penetrated thus far into the bowels of the earth, in the year 1766.

Above Campan the valley grew more confined, the hills on the right hand studded with trees and barns, and covered with lively verdure; those on the left were rocky, barren, and savage. At the chapel of Saint Mary, two branches of the Adour flow from different glens, and join their waters; we rode up the more western stream to Grip, where all level ground terminates. Noble groves of fir overhang the river, which dashes successively down three romantic falls. Having taken some refreshment, we proceeded up the mountain by a winding, steep, and rugged path, through a forest of silver and spruce firs; we occasionally caught views of the river foaming among the rocks and trees, and in one spot darting over a vast precipice in a full, magnificent sheet.

Upon leaving the woods we crossed a large naked plain, at the foot of the Pic du midi, the highest mountain of the Pyrenees.* The Adour issues out of a pyramidical hill, a few miles farther up, and winds in a small stream through the rushy pastures. Abundance of flowers animate the face of this otherwise dull scene of nature. We were now arrived at the highest point of land

* The Canigout in Roussillon is nearly as high above the sea.

we had to surmount, when we were surprised by a very heavy fall of snow, that whitened all the surrounding eminences, but soon melted into rain, and wetted us thoroughly. When the storm abated, and the atmosphere grew clear, a horrible view opened down the valley of Bareges: rude and barren mountains shade it on both sides, and the Baston, a foaming torrent, fills the intermediate hollow. We descended by the edge of the river, and entered one of the bleakest and most desolate places in nature; where not a tree was to be seen, but the heights were seamed with yawning crevices, and the passages blocked up with quarries of stone, tumbled from the cliffs by the irresistible force of the waters. In this frightful chasm stands the village of Bareges, consisting of a single street built along the south side of the torrent. The situation is so dangerous and horrid, that the inhabitants dare not abide here in winter; they remove all their furniture, even doors and windows, to such houses as are supposed most out of the way of mischief: a few invalid soldiers alone remain, to preserve the springs from being buried under the earth that slides down from the mountains. Sometimes a large volume of water bursts out of its side, the overplus of a lake on the summit, and sweeps off all before it: each year some houses are washed away by the floods, or crushed under the weight of snow. The *avalanches*, or heaps of snow that are detached from the mountains, are often so prodigious as to fill up the whole bottom of the glen; and the river has been known to roll for several weeks through an arch of its own forming under this immeasurable mass.

The mineral waters, for which Bareges is famed, issue out of the hill in the center of the village, and are distributed into three baths. They are very fetid, but clear in the glass; their degrees of heat rise from 89 to 112 $\frac{3}{4}$. They are greasy to the touch, tinge silver black, and are esteemed sovereign in the cure of ulcers, wounds, and scrophulous humours. The baths belong to the king, and are entirely under the direction of his surgeons. The poor have the use of a large bath covered with boards, and are fed by a tax of six livres imposed upon all new comers; with this fund a comfortable dinner is provided for them, and distributed in presence of the governor, a worthy veteran, who solicited this command from a motive of gratitude, having been cured of a dangerous wound by bathing it with these waters. No company resorts hither merely for amusement; disorders only, and those severe and inveterate ones, can induce people to inhabit these wild regions. There is an
C assembly

assembly room and regular bath, when it is I know not whether a melancholy or a ludicrous sight, to behold several couples dancing together, some with a leg bound up, others with an arm in a sling, and all with a feeble body and a sickly aspect.

On the 8th we continued our journey by an excellent road with a rapid descent.—The landscape grew gayer every step; trees, villages, and cultivation gradually stole upon us as we travelled down the valley; it terminates in a small beautiful plain, in the front of which the ruined castle of Saint Maria on a rocky brow presents a groupe of objects, such as Salvator Rosa delighted in delineating; mountains of stupendous altitude environ it, and seem to prohibit all communication with the rest of the world; many hamlets appear at once, half hidden by rich groves, some rising in the plain, others placed high up the mountains. We passed through Luz, a considerable town, and crossing the river Gave, into which the Baston empties itself, alighted at the baths of Saint Sauveur, a most romantic spot. Six large houses built on a rock overhaded with woods, contain the company. The Gave winds under the cliff, the mountain rises immediately behind, and on every side cascades are seen and heard dashing from precipice to precipice. The waters of these baths are not so hot as those of Bareges, but their taste is still more nauseous: great quantities of saponaceous scum are gathered in the cisterns and spouts. There is a species of harmless serpent that delights in these waters, and frequently pays very unwelcome visits to the bathers.

L E T T E R VI.

Bagneres, August 21.

AS my last letter had long detained you among wild, mountainous scenes, a short pause was necessary to relieve your imagination, which might in some degree be sympathetically affected with the bodily fatigue we underwent in visiting them. I have therefore suffered a few days to elapse before I gave you the continuation of my rambles, that you might have leisure to familiarize yourself with this grand style of landscape: here nature exhibits her boldest features; here every object is extended upon a vast scale,

scale, and the whole assemblage impresses the spectator with awe as well as admiration. What is left to describe still exceeds the majesty of the views which have been the subject of my last letters: I wish it were possible for me to communicate, by means of words or paintings, the rapturous sensations excited in my mind by the sight of those sublime works of the Creator.

We left Saint Sauveur by sunrise, repassed the bridge of Luz, and struck into a road that leads up the river. As we advanced we found ourselves immured in a narrow valley, with the Gave roaring below us, between walls of immense rocks, and frequently hidden from our view by thick groves of lime and oak trees. The path was wide enough for our mountain horses, but very alarming to some unexperienced travellers in our company; on one hand a perpendicular rock, without any parapet, laid open the deep gloomy bed of the river almost under our feet, and a shivery mountain pressed so close upon us on the other, as to leave no room for a retreat. The turns in the road, where torrents have heaped stones, and choaked the pass with rubbish, are particularly distressing; but our horses were so unconcerned, and surefooted, that they soon inspired their riders with equal indifference for the surrounding perils.

The whole valley is occupied by the river and the road, with vast piles of mountains rising on each side, and almost closing together; now and then level spots occur at the angles of the river. We crossed a bridge romantically clothed with ivy, which hid the tremendous chasm from our eyes: huge rocks rear up their perpendicular points, and torrents rush over them on all sides. The mountain ash, and service tree, blushing with clustered berries, bend over the precipices, and soften the harshness of the wild prospect. After this the valley rather swells out, and more room is allowed for the indefatigable industry of the inhabitants to exert itself; but great part of the level, and all the lower regions of the mountains, are overgrown with wood, interspersed with a charming variety of flowering shrubs: many of the favourite denizens of our English gardens, flourish here in all their native luxuriance. This dale terminates at Gedres, a rambling village on the side of the mountain. The road is afterwards cut through the rock, and leads to a situation that gave us an idea of confusion, and desolation, the effects of some violent earthquake: the mountain is split and torn to pieces; its sides, and foot are strewn with innumerable huge blocks of stone, detached from

the impending ridge that forms its bare summit; the passage through this rocky labyrinth opened to a magnificent amphitheatre; on the top waved thick forests of firs, through which several streams forcing their way, dashed down the lofty precipice, but almost vanished away in mist before they could reach the bottom. The field below was beautifully overspread with purple monkshood.

Our morning's expedition ended at Gabarnie, where we found good accommodations prepared for us by a messenger we had dispatched the preceding day. This is a village consisting of a church, and thirty houses, in the midst of bare hills, shaded by very high mountains, and traversed in several directions, by foaming torrents. The curate partook of our dinner, after we had removed the table to the door of the inn, for he durst neither eat, nor drink, within the walls of a public house. We found him a modest, conversable man, worthy of a richer settlement. After dinner we travelled towards the head of the Gave, the object of our journey: we had long had in view the snow-capped cliffs from which its waters issue, but were surprised to find them still so distant from us. We spent an hour and a half in riding across a bare tract of pasture, closed in with immense forests of evergreens on the French side, and along the Spanish frontier, which lies on the right hand, confined by bare rocky mountains: this plain is called the *Prade*; the river follows a serpentine course through it; in winter it is generally covered with snow forty feet deep. Not far from hence a silver mine was discovered some years ago, and worked by a company of adventurers; but the business was so injudiciously managed, and the conduct of the miners so flagitious, that the ministry thought proper to put a stop to the undertaking. All the heights towards the south-west, are debateable land between the French and Spaniards, and arbitrators have long been appointed to settle the limits; but as they have hitherto made but little progress, the claimants have been under the necessity of forming a temporary agreement to feed their flocks alternately upon the disputed grounds.

Our guide having now brought us to his *ne plus ultra*, pressed us earnestly to alight, as no horse had ever advanced beyond this pass: but as we were not contented with so distant a view, we rejected his timid advice, and clambering over several rocky eminences, plunged into the river, which by its limpidity deceived our eye, both as to the depth of the water, and the size of the

the rocks at the bottom. It required our utmost exertions to extricate our horses, and bear them safe through to the opposite bank. This difficulty being overcome, all others appeared contemptible, and we soon reached the center of a most stupendous amphitheatre; three sides of it are formed by a range of perpendicular rocks; the fourth is shaded with wood: above the upright wall, which is of a horrible height, rise several stages of broken masses, each covered with a layer of everlasting snow. The mountain eastward ends in sharp pinnacles, and runs off to the west in one immense bank of snow. From these congealed heaps the Gave derives its existence: thirteen streams rush down the mighty precipice, and unite their waters at its foot. The whole western corner of the area below is filled with a bed of snow, which being struck by few rays of the sun at any season, receives a sufficient volume of fresh snow every winter, to balance the loss occasioned by the warmth of the atmosphere in summer. Two of the torrents fell upon this extensive frozen surface; they have worn a huge chasm, and extending from it, a vaulted passage five hundred yards in length, through which their waters roll. We boldly rode over this extraordinary bridge, and alighting at the foot of the rocks, walked down the passage. The snow lies above it near twenty feet thick; the roof is about six feet above the ground, and finely turned in an arch, which appears as if it had been cut and chiselled by the hand of man. In some places there are columns and collateral galleries; the whole glittered like a diamond, and was beautifully pervaded by the light. The only inconvenience we felt, arose from the dripping occasioned by the extreme heat of the day, by which even this great body of snow was strongly affected. As we emerged with the river from this singular grotto, we unharboured three chamoy goats, that had taken refuge in the mouth of the cave, against the burning rays of noon: they darted across the plain, and ascended the steepest parts of the rocks, where we soon lost sight of them. These animals are called *Ysards* in this country; they are rather smaller than the fallow deer, of a muddy reddish yellow colour, with snubbed nose, and short black horns: in shape they resemble a deer, walking with their heads upright, and skipping away with admirable swiftness; but they do not bound; they run when at full stretch: no beast of the forest is of more difficult access; they seldom quit the highest and most inaccessible parts of the mountains: during the wintry storms, they have been seen fixed on the brow of a precipice, with
their

their faces towards the wind, probably to prevent the rain and snow from lodging under their hair. Notwithstanding their suspicious, wild nature, and their extreme velocity, the hardy mountaineers find means to destroy them: they lie out whole days and nights watching their opportunity, and making good use of it, when it offers, for they are excellent marksmen: they have frequently as much difficulty in reaching the dead prey, as in approaching it while living. The flesh of the *Yfard* is much esteemed; its skin makes soft and useful gloves.

The setting of the sun roused us from the ecstasy in which the contemplation of these awful scenes had enwrapped every sense, and warned us to retire, before the want of light should render those passes doubly dangerous, which we had found very difficult even in the glare of day. The sun sank behind the snowy cliffs in admirable beauty, tingeing the mountains with a rich variety of fiery hues, which died away into the most tender tints of purple.

The mountains abound with game, the rivers with fish: here are no lords or manorial rights, and therefore game is the property of every member of the community that can catch it. Except some tracts of wood reserved for the use of the navy, all the forests are held in common.

L E T T E R VII.

ON our return, we passed through the plain of Luz into a defile along a magnificent road opened by Monsieur d'Itigny, the late intendant of this province. This pass between two mountains clothed from top to bottom with dark woods, was extremely narrow, and the Gave rolled below with horrible noise, amidst rocks and cataracts. The way along the side of the mountain was either hewn out of the live rock, or formed by shelving down whole quarries of slate and shiver; a parapet wall in the dangerous places diminished our apprehensions. At length the dell suddenly widened, the mountains retired on each hand, and our eyes were relieved, after so long confined a prospect, by the sight of the valley of Argillas, an oval plain of great extent, bounded in front by moderate elevations, beautifully planted and richly cultivated.

We then travelled up the course of another Gave, for three miles, to the mineral waters of Cauterets. This town stands in a wide vale, delightfully improved and planted: the surrounding mountains are thickly covered with wood;* the wells lie in the midst of a beautiful scene; two vast torrents pour over a ledge of rock, shaded by an evergreen forest; beautiful woody knolls rise behind, and mountains of great bulk seem to rest upon them as upon a basis: one of these hills is quite round, and an exact representation of the eminence at the bottom of Ulse water in Cumberland, called Dunmollin, which all persons acquainted with our delightful lakes, esteem a perfect model of rural beauty. Early on the 10th we returned from Cauterets to the plain, and took the road to Lourdes: this ancient castle is a confused pile of towers and walls rising in terraces, commanding the town and valley in a very grand manner, itself the noblest feature of the view: its strong ramparts, though no longer essential to the defence of the country, are preserved to confine delinquents of high rank.

From hence the journey down the Gave abounded with beautiful prospects: Lourdes long remained in sight, till hidden by towering rocks and hanging woods. We dined at Betharan, a place to which pilgrims resort, in great numbers, to pay their homage to an image of the Virgin Mary. The charms of its position, when known, would allure even an indelicate traveller, delighting in rural elegance; for nature has taken unusual pains to deck it out with her most seductive ornaments: a deep winding river, woody heights, and a fertile plain, unite in a rich foreground, while different shades of receding mountains compose grand distances for the remainder of the picture. We continued our ride many miles, through one of the finest countries I ever beheld: the number of villages is too great to reckon, yet the fruitfulness of the plain seems to demand even more husbandmen to gather in its productions. Corasse lay near the road, an ancient venerable mansion, where Henry the Fourth was nursed. Nothing can be more pleasing than the approach to Pau, the capital of the principality of Béarn, and the residence of the kings of Navarre, after Ferdinand of Aragon had most unjustly wrested Upper Navarre from them.

* The hottest spring raises the quicksilver to 118; in the coolest it falls to 69.

Pau stands on the brow of a hill, overlooking the immense plains through which the Gave meanders; its many streams join in one large body, before they pass under the arches of the bridge below: the southern horizon is bounded by a far lengthened chain of mountains, rising behind a range of well-wooded hills.

The royal castle built by king Henry of Albret, is situated on the happy point for enjoying the whole extent of this admirable prospect; its terraces communicate with a shady park, full of noble timber: neither the outward architecture, nor the interior decoration of this palace, merit any notice; nor do the apartments contain any curious tokens of their old inhabitants: the only relic preserved in it, is the shell of a tortoise, which the wardens assured us was the cradle of Henry the Fourth. The city consists chiefly of two long streets, but is destitute of ornamental edifices and public monuments; the only one I saw, was a bad statue of Lewis the Fourteenth, which presses a pedestal destined, as tradition informs us, for the figure of his grandfather, the glory of the house of Bourbon, and the darling hero of this province. The Bearnois seem to have been conscious how shocking it must appear to find no memorial of so good a prince in his own original patrimony, for the inscription says, "This is the grandson of our good king Henry."

The principality of Béarn is said by etymologists to have taken its name from the city of Bencharrica, once its capital, but now so completely destroyed, that nobody can ascertain where it stood. The Bearnois were in all ages men of an independent spirit, continually in arms to curb the growing power of their princes, and to maintain their native rights against encroachments. In the thirteenth century they insisted upon the sovereignty being elective, and though they did not succeed in that respect, they obtained a new body of magistrates, to be formed to control the authority of their prince. The ancient mode of government, though not the power, subsists in the states, which assemble annually to deliberate upon subsidies, and other concerns of the province: they are composed of the bishops of Lescar and Oleron, of whom the first is president of the meeting; three abbots, twelve ancient barons, four barons of less antiquity, and five hundred and forty gentlemen, possessors of fiefs, constitute the first branch of the states; the second consists of deputies named by forty-two towns.

Centul-

Centulphus was the first sovereign of Béarn, and reigned in the tenth century: his posterity for many generations paid homage to the kings of Navarre, or Aragon. The house of Foix acquired Béarn, by marriage, about the end of the thirteenth century; but in the fifteenth, an heiress carried it into the family of Grailly, who assumed the name of Foix. In 1471, Gaston the Fourth procured the crown of Navarre for his descendants, by marrying Eleanor daughter of John king of Aragon. Their grandson dying without issue, Catherine his sister succeeded; her husband, John de Albret, was stripped of Upper Navarre by Ferdinand the Catholic. Jane daughter to their son Henry, and wife of Anthony of Bourbon, was mother to Henry the Fourth, who ascended the throne of France upon the extinction of the house of Valois. This principality was not completely incorporated into the monarchy of France, till the reign of his son Lewis.

The exportation from this province is inconsiderable, though some of its wines are excellent, and proper for long voyages and foreign markets: those of Jurançon hold the first rank; they are extremely strong and heady. Coarse linen is made in great quantities. The grain most used for the nourishment of the people is Turkey wheat: the plains abound with fruits, corn, and pulse; every necessary of life is to be had at an easy rate, and of a good quality. In the mountains, milk and cheese supply the place of many articles that are only to be found in the low country. Almost every valley has its mineral springs, and mines of various metals. The natives are an industrious, strong, shrewd, and lively race.

L E T T E R VIII.

A Ride of twenty-eight miles through rich vineyards and forest lands, brought us to the city of Oleron, which is situated upon the banks of two rivers, among beautiful hills. Its principal inhabitants are concerned in a lucrative commerce with the adjacent provinces of Spain, but it is not in so flourishing a condition as it was in the last century.

On the 12th, we left our inn before day break, and in an hour's time

D

entered

entered the streights that shut in the valley of Aspe: this narrow glen is many miles in length, full of neat hamlets and cottages, and terminates in the large circular plain of Besouf, which is enlivened by the scattered buildings of several villages, and those belonging to the king's mast-yards. From hence the road to Spain has been made by gunpowder, through a huge rock that hangs over the river. Seven miles further we came to the foot of the *Mature d'Escout*. The mountains are here extremely lofty, rocky, and bare, except near their summits, which are covered with silver firs. For the purpose of felling and transporting such of these trees as are fit for masts, the king has caused a way to be cut in the flank of a frightful rocky mountain, that stretches out over the bed of a very precipitate torrent: it is rather a chain of water-falls than a stream. Every foot of the road has been gained by blasting; in some places where crevices in the rock have interrupted the solid communication, bridges are laid, supported by huge beams driven into holes in the stone, and thus suspended over precipices, which the eye cannot measure without horror. The ample breadth scarce seems a security against the perils of this road, which is without comparison the most tremendous I ever ventured to climb. After a long fatiguing ascent, we were relieved by the levelness of a small plain at the head of the cataract, where the wood-hewers have built their huts. A large extent of wood has already been cleared, and the supply of masts in this forest is nearly exhausted. The trees, as soon as cut, are trimmed, and slung down with cables to a terrace near the foot of this upper range of the mountain. There each mast is fastened to ropes, and drawn by oxen down the road by which we ascended, to a tree of thirty-three inches diameter, the largest size this forest produces: twenty four pair of oxen are yoked behind, to keep back the weight, and prevent the mast from rolling or sliding down with too much precipitancy; yet the cattle are generally obliged to trot, sometimes very fast, so prodigious is the weight and power acquired by the timber as it glides down. It requires great skill in the drivers to guide their oxen at each turn of the mountain, to prevent the point of the tree from striking the rocks.

The felling and conveying of these masts are performed by contract, at twenty-five sous per cubic foot; but the king is bound to make the roads to Atas; there the masts are thrown into ponds, and afterwards let down into the river Gave of Oleron, fastened together in rafts: bundles of poles and planks

defend

defend them against the shock of the rocky shores, and screens of wood are placed at every turn, to deaden the strokes they must sometimes give: eight men embark on board each float. It appears to me that the timber might be conveyed to the plain at an easier rate, were terraces contrived at different heights, to which the masts might be lowered by means of cables and capstans, as they are in the first instance, instead of employing so many oxen in the removal of a single tree.

We returned by the valley of Aspe to Pau, and from thence to Bagnères, having made a tour of three hundred and twenty miles.

L E T T E R IX.

Bagnères, Sept. 2.

BEING desirous of visiting the Pic du Midy, I repaired early to Grip, at the head of this valley; from hence I ascended to Tremefaugues, a heap of hovels near the beautiful falls of the Adour, where I expected to meet with a guide, but not a man was to be seen; all were out on the pastures, tending their flocks, or wandering in the forest, in quest of the Yfard. My resolution was not damped by this disappointment: I directed my steps towards a plain at the foot of the Pic. No bushes grow upon this extensive tract of pasture; short grass and low heath are here the scanty covering of the earth: a small stream of excellent water issues from the bottom of the gigantic cone. Here I found a shepherd's boy, who engaged to guide me up the mountain. My servant and horses remained at the spring head, while I followed my conductor up a rugged bank, between huge walls of shaggy rocks, where the melted snow pours down in torrents, on the return of spring. Rough and laborious was the ascent, while the sun, unobscured by clouds, darted his rays perpendicularly on my head. By winding round to the south side of the mountain, we at length arrived at the summit of a narrow ridge, which runs into the main body of the Pic, as wings are joined to a mansion by a gallery of communication. Not a drop of water was to be met with near the path, but I supplied the deficiency in some degree, by frequently applying a lump of alum to my tongue. I had now climbed up

nearly one third of the whole height of the mountain, from the place where I had left my servant, and enjoyed here an awful prospect down a vast basin on the southern aspect, at the bottom of which lay a round lake: the water was of a bright green colour. Before me an immense heap of black rugged mountains rose in sublime confusion, one behind another, till the horizon was bounded by the snowy table of Gabarnie. Not a trace of man or his improvements was to be discerned; no tree, no paths, no animals; all dreary, silent, and savage. Here my guide refused to proceed, assuring me that neither he, nor any of his acquaintance, had ever ventured a step higher. When I found that neither bribery nor expostulation could remove his fears and prejudices, I engaged in the adventure alone, and began to climb the main body of the Pic: and now all my preceding toils appeared light, compared with the difficulties I had to encounter in this ascent, which is scarce to be called a declivity, being so near a perpendicular line: it just affords slope enough for a coarse, slippery grass to strike root, and stop the shelving shiver from being washed down to the bottom. These tufts were my stepping places, without which it would have been impossible to proceed, for the soil slides away with a touch; but the blades of this grass are so sharp and stiff, that they penetrated my espartilles, or packthread shoes, and often gave me such pain, as to endanger my losing my hold, and rolling down.

After numberless pauses I reached a small puddle of water, formed by the melting of a neighbouring wreath of snow, the only one left on the mountain: my thirst was excessive, and I greedily swallowed large draughts of water, though it was hot, brackish, and nauseous. I soon after gained the summit of the Pic, an entire flat, oblong rock, about thirty feet diameter, inclining towards the south. From this pinnacle to the afore-mentioned lake is one uninterrupted rapid slope: towards the northern and eastern aspects the rocks are perpendicular, and I believe, impervious to man, and beast. The Pic du Midy is a cone placed on the point of union of three inferior mountains, by which it is supported, as by a triangular pedestal. I found that I had employed near three hours in the ascent: the height of the mountain was measured in the year 1740, by the Academicians, and determined by the barometer to be 1441 toises, equal to 9217 English feet, above the level of the sea. When I had rested my weary limbs, and recovered from the disagreeable sensations of excessive heat, by exposing myself to a gentle breeze
that

that blew over the surface of this elevated rock, I strove to enjoy, as much as possible, the charms of the most extensive and superb view the imagination can conceive, or the eye admit. To the south, south-east, and south-west, a line of innumerable mountains faded away into clouds at each extremity, where I thought, I could trace the outlines of both seas; but as the heat of the day had covered the very distant objects with a dim vapour, I may have been deceived, and only fancied I saw what I knew existed in those quarters. On the northern aspect lies a plain, confined only by the rotundity of the globe, and the inability of the eye to take in a greater proportion of its circumference: infinite was the variety of colours that enlivened its surface, among which none was so gay as the golden hue of the ripe corn. I followed the direction of the principal roads, traced the course of rivers from their head, and discerned each town and city, that lies upon their banks: Tarbes, Auch, and Pau were the most conspicuous; but had I been provided with a good spying glass, I am confident, I might have distinguished Toulouse, Montauban, and many other places equally distant. I could not perceive the least diminution in my freedom of respiration, nor any material difference in the degree of heat I felt there, and that I had experienced in the plain below, except what was occasioned by the fine zephyr, which cooled the air, and rendered the downright beams less irksome. I lay an hour stretched thus above the world, then feeling myself restored to vigour, descended to the plain in the space of an hour and thirty-five minutes. Thrift, blue-bottle, and meum, were the only flowers I saw on the higher cone: the plain abounds with pinks and dwarf-iris.

L E T T E R X.

Bagnères, Sept. 17.

I Last week made an excursion to Bagnères de Luchon. At Sainte Marie, above Campan, we turned to the south-east, along a delightful valley, surrounded by green hills and woody mountains. We baited at the Pas de Sude, in a spacious plain in the center of noble forests of silver firs: the lower branches of

of these aged trees are thickly hung with long moss, as delicate as flax. Beyond this girdle of woods and mountains lies the valley of Aune, of which the principal town is Arreau, situated on the river Neste, and completely hemmed in by towering mountains. It was formerly resorted to by patients labouring under nervous and scrophulous complaints, which were frequently removed by the use of a cold mineral bath: but Margaret queen of Navarre caused it to be filled up and destroyed, out of resentment, as the popular tradition goes, because a favourite female attendant of hers, over whose conduct she had always watched with maternal solicitude, was debauched here, while the queen was in the bath, the first moment that she had lost sight of her. Had we arrived at Arreau a day sooner, we might have partaken of the diversion of a bear-hunt; for that morning all the youths of the valley had assembled, and killed a very large one, that did not yield till he had received eight shots in his body. The method of conducting this chase, is to trace the animal to his haunt by day-break; and as he never moves afterwards till night, the hunters have time to collect their numbers, and surround the covert: the line of circumvallation being perfected, the game is roused by the din of fifes, drums, kettles, shouts, and all manner of harsh and hideous noises: astonished and terrified with this horrid serenade, the bear rushes out of the wood, to seek some more peaceable retreat; but as soon as he issues from the thicket, the discharge of musketry commences: if missed, he runs upon the man that fired, but repeated shots call his attention to another and another object, till one ball better aimed than the rest, dispatches him. Bears seldom attempt to bite, but seek to annoy the enemy with their claws.

From Arreau we clambered over a dreary mountain, and then followed the course of a rivulet down into the vale of Luchon. Bagneres de Luchon is a small town, irregularly built, in the corner of a plain, which is about two miles in diameter: the prospect is extremely circumscribed, for the surrounding chain of mountains is of great height: snow lies all the year upon their peaks. A ruinous tower on a pointed rock, served formerly as a guard to the pass into Spain, which is a gloomy, narrow dell, a mere crevice in the mountainous line: were it not for this break, the boldest traveller would find it almost impracticable to pass this natural barrier of the two kingdoms.

The baths are at a small distance from the town, and near the springs which issue out of a rock: the hottest bubbles up in a hole not a yard wide, and
its

its waters are as black as ink : the little pebbles at the bottom are incrustated with a silvery micaceous sediment. These fountains are three in number, varying materially in their degrees of heat, but all soapy and fetid, strongly recommended in cutaneous cases. One of these wells is separated, by a plank placed edgewise, from a copious stream, which gushes out of the same cliff; but instead of being hot and sulphureous, is the coldest and purest water in the whole valley; their streams are suffered to unite soon after, to fill the tepid baths.

We returned from Bagnères de Luchon by the plains, pursuing the course of the river Aune, down a rich dale to the village of Cierp, where the higher ridge of mountains terminates towards the north. At this point a landscape presented itself, which may claim a very high degree of pre-eminence among the sublime scenes of nature : an amphitheatre of mountains, beautiful both in form and woody covering, close in the horizon on the southern aspect; a desolate castle, wildly seated on a rock, varies the outline of the lower hills; a second mighty chain of mountains on the east side is broken by a chasm lined with white cliffs, through which the Garonne issues majestically out of his native wilderness, to flow henceforward without impediment, through rich and boundless plains, and to transport their productions many hundred miles to the ocean. The river is even here of a noble breadth and depth, and carries barges of considerable burden. Towards the north the valley expands on each hand, cultivation and population increase, the mountains seem to draw back, and every thing announces a quick change from wild nature to the improvements of human industry.

Lower down, we passed in sight of Saint Bertrand, the capital city of the country of Comminges, situated on a round knoll, backed by woody mountains. The steepness of the hill, the serpentine course of the river, and the massy steeples of its cathedral, give it a striking resemblance to the city of Durham.

This town takes its name from St. Bertrand its bishop, who in 1100 built it near the ruins of Lion de Comminges, an ancient town destroyed in 585, by Gonran, king of Burgundy, for having received within its walls an impostor that pretended to be of the blood royal.

Our journey in the afternoon lay over immense heaths, clotted with oaks, to the ruins of Mauvesin, once a castle of strength, erected by the English, to overlook

overlook and defend the boundaries of their possessions. Near the foot of the eminence on which this commanding tower rises conspicuous on every side, stands the Cistercian Abbey of Escaldiou, embosomed in woods; three beautiful vallies meet at this point amidst rich meadows watered by the river Larros. The monks enjoy an income of fifty thousand livres a year; the commendatory abbot has about ten thousand. They are lords of seven villages and a vast tract of forest, but derive fewer advantages from their woodlands than might be expected, on account of the right each community has of cutting the timber and coppice necessary for its repairs and fuel: the woodmen in this country plant out thick oak, beech, and chesnut trees, about ten feet high and two inches in diameter, and first cut off the heads. These trees grow astonishingly strait, lofty, and sound, though exposed to violent storms of wind and heavy falls of snow. We soon after came to a place where nets were set to catch stock-doves, which come from the east about the time that the millet seed is ripe, and fly in large flocks after rainy, hazy weather. Incredible numbers are caught during the season, which is at the height in October. The time of our departure from hence is fixed for the 22d instant. We shall quit this valley with regret, and long remember with gratitude the pleasant hours we have spent here.

The pleasures of Bagneres bear little affinity to those which are usually to be met with at the mineral waters in England; here are few assemblies, parties of dancing or cards, and few great entertainments; the company divides itself into small sets, and most of the amusements are of a rural kind; the accommodations are comfortable, and the necessaries of life good and plentiful. The greatest inconvenience we have experienced, is the difficulty of getting remittances of money.* Travellers must either bring with them the sum in cash which they expect to spend during their residence here, or have it sent by the carriers from their correspondents at Bourdeaux, or Toulouse, an operation attended with expence and delay.

* Since I left the South of France, the inconvenience here complained of, has been effectually removed by the judicious and extensive plan settled by Messieurs Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, for accommodating travellers with money, in all parts of Europe: Bagneres and Bareges are both comprized in their circle of correspondence. Any person, who from bad health or curiosity shall be induced to visit these remote provinces of France, may now procure from that house *circular exchange notes*, payable to his order for whatever sum he shall deposit in their hands; he will receive the amount of those notes at any of the places mentioned in their list of correspondence, without commission or charges, and at the *current usance course of exchange on London*, at the time of payment.

L E T T E R XI.

Toulouse, September 24, 1776.

WE left Bagneres at the appointed time, and travelled to Toulouse along the banks of the Garonne.

Toulouse is an ancient city, which, like all places that boast of remote antiquity, has its origin and early history obscured with fables.* The Romans decorated it with many noble structures, but no other vestiges of them are left, than the brick arches of a small amphitheatre. It stands in the center of an extensive plain, which yields large crops of corn and millet; vineyards are scarce in the environs, and the wine they give is of a low quality.

The circumference of the city is about four miles: its streets are roomy, and houses well constructed; some of them are grand and spacious, but there is a gloominess in the colour of the brick with which they are built, and a want of motion in the streets, that casts a damp upon my spirits, and excites ideas of misery.

The manufactures of Toulouse are of small importance, nor is its trade considerable. The genius of the citizens inclines more to letters than to commerce; the law draws to it every person, that can amass wealth enough

* The Volsci Tectosages inhabited this part of Gaul at the time of the first Roman invasion in the 636th year of Rome. It continued to form a province of the Roman empire, till Honorius, finding himself hard pressed on every side by shoals of barbarians, endeavoured to save the main body of his dominions from destruction, by yielding a few distant members to some nations in preference to others, and thereby sowing dissention among them; with this view he, in 400, ceded the province of Narbonne to the Goths. In the eighth century they were subdued by the Saracens, who in their turn were driven back into Spain by Charles Martel, and his son Pepin. Charlemagne established earls at Toulouse, who soon after became sovereign princes; their posterity reigned four hundred years; but in 1208 Raymund the Sixth drew upon his head the vengeance of the Holy See, by assisting his subjects the heretics of Alby, against whom the Pope had published a Crusado. The chief of the holy confederacy was Simon de Montfort; he defeated the earl, and as the reward of his valour, received the earldom from the hands of his fellow soldiers: Amaury de Montfort, his son, being too weak to preserve his father's conquests, sold them to the king of France, who forced Raymund the Seventh to sign a treaty, by which he abandoned all his possessions, except the diocese of Toulouse, and that also eventually on failure of his issue. By the death of his only daughter, the earldom fell to the crown of France, in consequence of the aforesaid agreement.

to purchase a seat on its benches: the church also swallows up a large portion of the inhabitants; poverty and idleness seem the lot of the inferior class. Nothing contributes more to check the spirit of trade, than the temptation which the Capitoulat, or chief municipal magistracy, holds out to every wealthy merchant: this office imparts the rank and privileges of nobility, not only to the persons invested with the dignity, but also to their descendants, and is therefore the constant object of ambition to every thriving father of a family; when once attained, the channel through which the wealth flowed, is shut for ever, and thus the plant is left to wither on its stalk, just at the moment when it began to acquire strength and juices sufficient to ensure a succession of useful fruit.* Yet the Garonne presents powerful incitements to commercial industry, and Toulouse seems destined by its situation to serve as a staple town between the upper and lower provinces, that line its shores for many hundred miles.

The mills of the Basade, with their weirs, are a grievous impediment to the navigation of the river; for goods must be unshipped and carried through the town, to be re embarked above the falls, which occasions both expence and loss of time. The states of Languedoc have endeavoured to remedy this defect, without destroying the mills, which are essential to the purveyance of a city built in a plain, where windmills would remain useless half the year, from want of wind. A canal has been dug to open a communication between that part of the Garonne which lies above the Basade, and that which is below the dams, in order that loaded boats may pass up and down the whole course of the river without interruption; but the in-draught of the mill is so strong, that few bargemen will venture to steer for the upper mouth of the new cut, and therefore the success of the project remains problematical: a large marble basso relievo of genii, seas, and rivers, is, however, erected to commemorate the era of this junction. It is also proposed to continue the work till it joins the last basin of the royal canal of Languedoc, which will facilitate the conveyance of merchandize not intended for sale in Toulouse.

The bridge over the Garonne, which is here 820 feet wide, is the work of Francis Mansard; the style of architecture is bold, but the holes which he has opened in each pier, to give an easier passage to the waters in great floods, are disagreeable blots in the mass.

* Some families of high rank and great illustration descend from Capitouls.

The Toulousains are so noted for devotion, that I was not surpris'd to see their city crowded with churches, and half its extent occupied by convents stocked with many coloured inhabitants; but sanctity has been more predominant than taste for the fine arts; and although whole legions of saints are here deposited in golden shrines and marble tombs, small expence has been bestowed in procuring good pictures or statues to represent these patrons and protectors: it cannot here be said that the costliness of the materials is eclipsed by the excellence of the workmanship.

Besides a regular army of priests, friars, and nuns, Toulouse has a spiritual militia, animated with equal if not superior zeal for the interest of the church: this corps consists of a large number of laymen associated under the denomination of penitents: kings, statesmen, and generals, have thought it an honour to have their names enrolled on the list; but times are altered, and I believe men of sober judgment, and just notions of religion, with these excrescencies of the ecclesiastical trunk were lopped off, rather than encouraged. Toulouse has long been distinguished for her unconditional submission to the dictates of the court of Rome, and has too often cemented the connection with the blood of human sacrifices. This was the birth-place of the Inquisition; and in our days, the proceedings that attended the condemnation of John Calas prove that the seeds of the fanaticism, which produced that cruel tribunal, are not yet destroyed in this province. The true state of this melancholy event is still hidden behind clouds of doubts and conjectures, nor have I been able to procure any satisfactory lights on the subject. A sensible, uninterested spectator of the whole transaction assured me, that he had strong reasons for suspecting that John Calas had, by some unlucky blow or push, been the innocent cause of his son's death: the expressions uniformly made use of by that unfortunate parent, agree with this surmise.

The vaults of the Cordeliers are famous for the dried corpses there deposited; but those preserved in the subterraneous galleries of Naples, and Syracuse, are less disfigured.

The church of the Carmelite nuns is neat; that of the Visitation elegant.

The eight Capitouls assemble in a spacious town-hall, said to be the gift of Clemence Isaure, a learned lady and encourager of the liberal arts, who is supposed to have flourished in the 14th century, and to have founded annual

prizes for poetry: these rewards are still distributed by the academy of the Jeux Floraux, and consist in sprigs of gold and silver flowers. In the same building is a gallery of portraits of illustrious personages, natives of the province, but the fame of several that I saw there seems to be confined within the limits of its territory. The chronicles of Toulouse, which are shewn here, have been regularly kept since the year 1285; they contain many singular traits of history, and are embellished with miniature representations of several public ceremonies; the entry of Lewis the Eleventh, while Dauphin, is one of the most curious: in order to obtain for his mother the distinction of a canopy, which the magistrates refused to grant her, he took her up behind him, and rode thus into the city, sharing with her all the honours paid to his own person.

Henry duke of Montmorency was beheaded in a court of this town-hall in the year 1632. He was a spirited, popular nobleman, and, as such, an obstacle to the designs of Cardinal Richelieu: by various artifices he was seduced into rebellion, defeated at Castelnaudary, taken prisoner, and brought hither to meet his fate.

L E T T E R XII.

Montpellier, October 8, 1776.

BETWEEN Toulouse and Carcassonne the country is disagreeably open, without wood or hedges; the towns and villages are placed on hills; the plains are arable, and through the middle of them runs the royal canal, which forms a communication between the Atlantic and the gulf of Lyons. It was executed under the direction of Paul Riquet, of Beziers, at the expence of eleven millions of livres, of which the king and the province bore equal shares. The first stone was laid in 1667; and the canal opened in 1681, but it took many years to complete it. The length from Toulouse to Beziers, where it joins the river Orbe, is 125435 French toises, equal to 152 English miles. The system of inland navigation has been so much improved of late years, by the experiences and combinations made by some sublime geniuses in that line of mathematics, that I make no doubt but this canal would be shortened.

shortened many leagues, were it to be undertaken afresh. It is full of angles and turns that do not appear necessary; and on the contrary, in one or two places has been driven strait at an enormous expence through numberless obstacles, when a short sweep would have conveyed the waters, with greater ease and œconomy, to the place of their destination. There are fifteen locks upon it in the fall towards the ocean, and forty-five on the side of the Mediterranean. The highest point between the two seas is at Naurouge, which is elevated one hundred toises above the level of each shore. The canal is carried over thirty-seven aqueducts, and crossed by eight bridges. To preserve a constant supply of water near the centre in dry seasons, a great basin is formed at St. Ferreol, which receives the produce of all the springs that rise in the black mountain.

The profits of this undertaking accrue from the conveyance of goods and passengers; the former pay by the league, the latter by the day. Three hundred and sixty boats navigate the canal, and perform annually six voyages: the proprietors of the works receive a thousand livres a voyage, which makes up a sum total of two millions one hundred and sixty thousand livres; the current expences and repairs amount to one million six hundred and ten thousand livres, and consequently there remain five hundred and fifty thousand net profit, for the dividends. This account may perhaps fall short of the truth, as there are always secrets in trading companies, which it is hard to dive into.

The diocese of Carcassonne, though far from a fertile country, is in a flourishing condition, and its inhabitants comparatively rich; this good fortune is owing to the success of its cloth manufacture. The woollen trade has long been attended to in this place, but in the last age the Dutch found means to supplant the French in the Levant, by lowering the price of drapery; being themselves able, by means of a large capital, to bear the loss which this diminution occasioned, as long as any rivalry subsisted. The restoration of this beneficial branch of commerce appeared to the sagacious Colbert a task worthy of his comprehensive and persevering genius: he accordingly encouraged the attempts of several enterprising citizens, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing a constant and lucrative mart for French cloths opened in the Ottoman empire: the manufacturers of Carcassonne have been acquiring fresh vigour every year, since his administration: the trade that other nations
used

used to carry on with the Turks has sunk in the same proportion. Towards the close of the last century, according to the information given by Mr. De Basville in his memoir, drawn up for the duke of Burgundy, the sum brought into Carcassonne in return for its exported woollens, amounted to nine millions and a half of livres. I am assured these looms now send out annually cloths worth fourteen millions, and furnish the home trade with cloths to the amount of two millions more.

This city contains sixteen thousand souls; it consists of two parts, divided by the river Aude; the high town stands on a rock, surrounded with antique walls, and defended by a venerable old castle; the low town is regularly built in a square form. This place had once sovereigns of its own: the last earl, having sided with the Albigenes, was stripped of all his possessions, which were given to Montfort, and by that family transferred to the crown of France.

From hence to Narbonne we travelled through a bleak country, extremely unpleasant to the eye; the want of shade, and the strong reflection of the sun, render it intolerably hot in summer; during the winter months, it is exposed to severe cold and high winds. The soil in general is rocky, or a red gravel. The most northerly olive-trees in France grow here. We first descried the Mediterranean from the hills near Narbonne, which city stands in a low plain, exposed to inundations by its vicinity to several rivers that flow towards the salt lakes.

We entered this city through a gate built with the fragments of Roman altars, mutilated statues, inscriptions and trophies. The streets are narrow, and an air of poverty reigns throughout. The church alone seems to engross the wealth of the place; its archbishoprick is numbered among the richest benefices in the kingdom; the palace of the prelate resembles the gloomy fortrefs of an ancient feudatory prince, rather than the residence of a French archbishop in these days of peace and elegance. Many fine remnants of Roman sculpture, and literature, are preserved in the courts, and there the Narbonefe may indulge their vanity in surmises concerning the ancient magnificence of their city, whatever may be its appearance in its present reduced state. Narbonne became a Roman colony 115 years before Christ, and gave its name to a large division of Gaul. The abode of proconsuls and prefects, the masters of the world, or at least their deputies, was sure to receive every

every embellishment, and mark of distinction, which those proud inhabitants could bestow: the pleasures of Rome were undoubtedly transplanted hither, and sumptuous buildings raised for the sake of enjoying them. The numerous fragments, that occur in every part of the town, attest the grandeur and taste of its ancient decorations; but time, and the fury of barbarians, have left none of those edifices standing.

The cathedral is remarkable for the loftiness of its roof, but the style of architecture is heavy. In the choir is the mausoleum of Philip the Hardy, son of St. Lewis; he died at Perpignan in 1285, while he was employed in despoiling his excommunicated relation, Peter of Aragon, of his dominions.

Narbonne was formerly governed by sovereign viscounts, but the kings of France acquired it in the 16th century. Its trade chiefly depends upon the exportation of its wheat, which is much esteemed for seed-corn, and, except olives, is the only important production of the diocese; it is sent by a canal to the sea, where it is shipped for those provinces along the coast, that are deficient in that first necessary of life. The salt-pans on the lakes bring in a considerable revenue to the farmers of the revenue: the waste grounds about Narbonne abound in aromatic plants, from which the bees extract a white and highly perfumed honey; its gentle laxative quality recommends it to the apothecaries in preference to other honey.

The fields in the low grounds are divided by rows of mulberry trees, and mounds overgrown with thickets of tamarisks; the plough used here consists merely of a slender handle, and a coulter, proportioned however to the lightness of the soil. Beyond this plain the country is mountainous, and dreary, as far as the banks of the Orbe.

We left the strait road to visit the Mal pas, a passage, where the canal of Languedoc is carried 147 yards through the heart of a mountain: the work is nobly executed; a bold lofty arch is thrown over the water, to prevent the materials of the excavated hill from falling, and a parapet is raised along the water edge for a towing path. While the workmen were opening this subterraneous cut, they accidentally struck upon a channel made by the Romans, to drain a lake that once filled a vast hollow on the summit of the mountain. From the Mal pas to the surface of the river Orbe there is a fall of sixty-seven feet, which renders ten locks necessary for the raising or lowering the barges.

Beziers

Beziers commands a grand extent of prospect, but the ground is too bare of wood. The climate of this city is much celebrated, as well as the fertility of its territory: Vaniere often sings the praises of this his native spot, in his *Prædium Rusticum*, a didactic poem, which appears cold and dull to foreign readers, but has many charms for those persons that are acquainted with this country, and qualified to judge of the truth, with which he has penned his descriptions. The roaring winds that blow for a long continuance at different seasons of the year, are no doubt conducive to the purity and salubrity of the air, but their violence renders Beziers a very unpleasant place of abode while they last. The cathedral and the palace of the Bishop are admirably situated opposite to the finest part of the hills and a beautiful reach of the river.

The Romans, who perfectly understood the advantages of situation, sent a colony to Beziers; on the dismembering of their empire, it fell into the hands of the Goths; the Saracens dispossessed them, and fortified this post with great care. The obstinate resistance they made here against Charles Martel, incited that general to destroy the place after he had driven them out. Beziers rose from its ashes, and afterwards was governed by a race of independent sovereigns. In 1209 the viscount of Beziers joined his standard to that of the earl of Toulouse in support of the Albigenes; this drew upon him the resentment of the Crusaders, who took his capital by storm, and massacred its inhabitants in great numbers, without distinction of sex or age. The kings of France soon after became possessed of the territory.

This is far from a commercial town; nature is so bountiful to Beziers, and supplies it in such abundance with all the necessaries of life, that the inhabitants seldom feel any incitement to industry. 'Tis the sting of penury that rouses and inspires us with the daring spirit of mercantile enterprize. These people find enough at home to answer every purpose of their existence, and therefore neither trade nor manufactures are heard of among them. This is the account I received from various quarters, but were I to judge of the affluence of the citizens by their rueful countenances, and their ill-built, dirty streets, I should be tempted to write them down for the poorest set of men in the whole province. The diocese produces a great deal of oil, wine, silk, and corn.

After traversing a barren country some leagues in extent, we descended with great pleasure into the rich plains of Pezenas; it is spacious, finely cultivated,

vated, and inclosed by hills dotted with single houses and villages. Pezenas is not remarkable for good buildings; the number of its inhabitants is small. We soon exchanged the agreeable scenes of this delicious plain for rocky mountains, bleakly piled one upon another, and productive only of shrubs, which serve for fuel. Near Loupian we came down to the edge of a large lake that communicates with the sea; the view here stretches across a noble bay; the branches of the olive tree and the vine hang over the waves, while distant towns seem to float upon their bosom. The approach to Montpellier is uncommonly majestic.

L E T T E R XIII.

Montpellier, Nov. 1, 1776.

THE city of Montpellier covers a round knoll. Its walls are handsome and well preserved; they were built in 1208, by a son of James, the victorious king of Aragon, to whom this prince had given the kingdom of Majorca and the earldom of Montpellier as an appanage. The square walk, called le Peyrou, upon the brow of the hill, is one of the grandest in Europe; it is raised upon several terraces, and adorned with a statue of Lewis the Fourteenth, a triumphal arch erected to the memory of the same monarch, and a rotunda, in which scrupulous architects will find little to admire: it serves to receive the waters brought from afar, along a noble aqueduct of two ranges of arches, and is here mentioned with praise as the part of a beautiful picture. Nothing we find among the ruins of Roman grandeur can have a more sublime effect, than this vast line of arcades striding over the hills and dales. The Peyrou commands a view of sea and land, that even draws the attention from its decorations; the lake of Magredonne is seen divided from the Mediterranean by a long isthmus, through the middle of which the royal canal is continued eastward from Agde; the boats upon it seem to be sailing in the open sea; villages are scattered along the edges of the lake, and the mountain of Cette towers beyond, like an island separated from the continent by a broad channel.

F

The

The walks and other embellishments give the exterior parts of this city the appearance of a metropolis, but nothing within corresponds with this idea; for the streets are narrow, crooked, and steep; the houses, though solidly built, are plain, and without any striking ornaments of architecture. The number of inhabitants exceeds sixty thousand.

The states * of Languedoc assemble here every winter, and during the meeting Montpellier is a place of great gaiety; at other seasons the resort of foreigners gives it an air of life and activity, which is seldom to be met with, except in sea ports. Its climate has long been celebrated for wholesomeness, and incredible numbers of invalids have visited it in hopes of relief from their complaints, or at least of finding an atmosphere more congenial to their delicate frames; but I suspect its merits have been over-rated, for in autumn and winter the winds are continual and very sharp; at the same time the sky is clear, and the rays of the sun powerful; therefore in every place sheltered from the north wind, the degree of heat is considerable, and perspiration excited by very moderate exercise: the cutting blast, which is felt at every corner, cannot fail of producing pernicious consequences to a body thus suddenly exposed with all its pores open. In summer, the influence of the marshes must be felt; indeed the faces of the people that inhabit the low grounds along the coast, bear sad testimony to the pernicious qualities of their air and soil; their hue is a dismal green, and agues harass them half the year. I have not yet seen a woman in Montpellier with a fine set of teeth; their decay is by some observers attributed to the effluvia of quicksilver, of which incredible quantities are employed by the surgeons; others lay the blame upon the vapours of verdigrise; but I incline to think that the proximity of the marshes is the principal, though not perhaps the sole cause.

The college of physic has long enjoyed great renown, and boasts of having taught or enrolled among its members many of the greatest physicians France has produced in the late and present centuries. Its privileges are extensive,

* The states are composed of three orders, the church, the nobility, and the commons; the first consists of three archbishops and twenty bishops; the second of one earl, one viscount, and twenty-one barons; the third of the deputies of dioceses, and magistrates of towns. Their business is to grant money to the king, to parcel out the contributions, to inspect the accounts of preceding years, and to watch over the privileges of the province.

and

and some of the most honourable are said to have been obtained by the favour of that wanton philosopher Rabelais, for which reason his gown is put on every new fellow by way of instalment. If the constant concourse of patients, and the best opportunities for acquiring the knowledge of simples, contribute to the increase of skill in a medical society, no school seems to have these helps in greater perfection than Montpellier; but of late years many sick persons have applied to other sources of health, and the consumptive English have been induced by fashion and the temptation of a milder climate, to breathe out their small remains of life on the warm shore of Nice.

Botany may be studied here with peculiar convenience, as the waste lands about the city afford samples of a greater number and variety of plants than can be found assembled in the same compass on any other soil in Europe. The king's botanical garden was first planned by Dulaurem, physician to Henry the IVth; it is well taken care of, and students are accommodated with every facility for acquiring the knowledge of vegetables. The gardener is wont to make an annual visit to the Pyrenean mountains, with a band of pupils, to examine the rare plants that grow in those elevated regions, and which are not produced in the plains and hills of Languedoc.

Perfumery, scented waters, and cordials of various sorts are prepared here with great skill; false cochineal, and a medicinal conserve, is made with the kermes, or gallnut of the holm oak; wax is blanched in considerable quantities; verdigrease * is the particular manufacture of this town; oil † and corn are sent out of its diocese in great quantities. It produces some excellent sorts of wine: fustians, and other cloths complete the list of its commodities.

* It is made by putting some quarts of wine in a large earthen jar; over the liquor are fixed cross sticks to bear a layer of raisins; over these is laid a thin plate of copper; this is repeated till the pot is filled; all air is then excluded for twelve days, by means of a thick straw cover. At the expiration of this term the copper plates are taken out, dried gradually in the shade, and then the verdigrease which has been produced upon them is scraped off.

† In December when the olives become black and shrivelled, they are beat down upon clean cloths, and carted to the mill, where they are thrown into a circular trough, in which a perpendicular stone turns. By the weight of this machine the fruit is crushed, and kneaded to a paste, then put into baskets of matting, with a hole at their top; these baskets are piled up under a press, and boiling water is poured upon them; the hot liquid brings out the oil, and carries it away with it into a tub, where the water sinks, and the oil is skimmed off with a ladle.

L E T T E R XIV.

Montpellier, Nov. 3, 1776.

MONTPELLIER did not exist, when Charlemagne destroyed Maguelonne, a city built in the middle of the lakes, the retreat and bulwark of the Saracens. The bishop and his clergy had already taken refuge at Sustantion, a village about a mile from the hill, where Montpellier was gradually formed into a town, by the concourse of people that preferred this lofty situation to the low country, both on account of safety, and of health. From some holy virgins, who either directed their choice, or did actually reside upon the hill, the new settlement took the name of Mons Puellarum, the mountain of the maids. Maguelonne was, however, rebuilt in the twelfth century, but again finally abandoned in 1536, and the episcopal see fixed at Montpellier, which had belonged to the crown of France since the year 1340.

The people of Montpellier took an active part in the rebellions that disturbed the reign of Lewis the Thirteenth, and distinguished themselves by their attachment to the reformed religion. The king besieged them in person, and having forced them to surrender, erected a strong citadel, to curb their refractory spirit, and secure their obedience to his authority. This fortress has been improved according to the modern system of defence, and has often been of eminent service both to the monarch and the subjects, in preserving internal peace, and keeping at a distance the calamities attendant upon civil discord, which desolated the other districts of the province.

The number of Hugonots is still great in this neighbourhood, notwithstanding the revocation of the edict of Nantes: persecution has not had the full effect that was expected, and the milder arts of toleration begin to be put in practice; perhaps indulgence, and the allurements of ambition, may imperceptibly undermine that well-cemented edifice, which has resisted so many open assaults and furious shocks from the hands of priests, and monarchs. Persecution is no converter, and mild treatment can alone weaken the impressions of education, and bring men to balance in their minds the weight of spiritual opinions against that of temporal advantages: when zeal abates,

as it soon will, if no longer animated by persecution, indifference will quickly slide into its place, and extinguish even the embers of that once outrageous fire. It is by these means that a long established sect is extirpated. The fable of the sun, wind, and traveller, is perfectly applicable in the present case, and I make no doubt but the French ministry have learned wisdom of their fabulists.

From the rapid progress made of late years by the spirit of toleration and humanity, it is to be presumed that the torch of fanaticism will never more be lighted up in our own country. It is time that the few remaining professors of the old religion of Britain should enjoy their obscure lot in peace, and as they contribute doubly to the support of the state, be no longer excluded from that protection which it affords to all other dissenters, Christian, or anti-christian. The animosities of ancient parties should die with the families and interests that gave them birth: the conduct of the king's Roman Catholic subjects has been so long uniformly loyal and peaceable, their numbers are so small, and their impossibility of giving any disturbance to government, were they even willing, is so well acknowledged, that nothing seems better proved, than the propriety of knocking off the ignominious fetters with which they are still loaded: but in opposition to this act of humanity, it is asserted, that their principles and doctrines are hostile to civil and religious liberty. I shall not enter into an argument on religious liberty, because, it is certain, that the Roman Catholics will never have it in their power in Britain to force any man to go to mass, and therefore no danger can accrue from their sentiments in abstract matters of faith. But, surely, it is the height of absurdity to affirm that religion to be inimical to liberty, which is professed by some of the freest people in Europe. There are cantons in Switzerland, republics in Italy, and individuals in Corsica and Poland, as tenacious of their freedom as the most stubborn Briton can be; yet, they believe in transubstantiation, make the sign of the cross, and acknowledge the pope to be the head of the church. Have we forgotten that we owe the inestimable blessings of juries to Alfred, who was submissively attached to the papal authority? How often did not our barons and commons rise in arms, and fight for public liberty, before they had learned even to doubt of his infallibility, and surely the men that drew up Magna Charta were papists. Let England remember, at least,
that

that her Roman Catholics are neither intruders, nor innovators; but the descendants of her old inhabitants, of those who for ages fought her battles, and lavished their blood and fortunes in support of that glory and freedom, of which their posterity is forbid to partake.*

Several of my mornings were devoted to rambles over the adjacent country; a fine extent of heath and forest, affords ample room for the most eccentric wanderer, and the want of inclosures leaves almost every where free passage through the vineyards and olive-grounds. The great variety of plants, and the aromatic scents that rose under my footsteps, with the quick succession of land and sea prospects, shifting as I moved up each hillock, rendered me insensible to heat and fatigue. Near Perrol there are small pools of water, impregnated with a strong vitriolic taste, and kept in constant ebullition by the fixed air; they are used as baths. Near Saint George's I strayed into a circular valley, exactly similar to the crater of a volcano, but instead of being covered with purple ashes, and strewed with horrid lumps of black lava, it was overgrown with arbutus, and other beautiful tall shrubs: pleasant paths have been formed through the thicket by the shepherds, who lead their flocks to brouze under this evergreen shade.

The mountain of St. Loup, and the ruins of the castle of Monferrand, seated on its most shaggy pinnacle, were the objects of another excursion. St. Loup is esteemed one of the most elevated points in the front row of the Cevennes, of which it commands a most extensive view. The lower region is woody and romantic, the upper rocky; but the light in which it claimed my attention was the probability, built upon its form, that a volcano had once existed at its summit; a deep circular hollow near a mile in diameter, the whole of it in tillage, is shut up to the north by a very high ridge of rocks, which on the outside are so precipitate as to deny all access, but on the inside slope easily to the bottom of the crater. The wall or crust towards the south is much lower, and broken in one part; a breach that may be perceived in every extinct volcano, being the passage effectuated by the over-boiling torrent of lava, through the weaker part of the shell. The river Lers bursts out of a cavern at the foot of this mountain, and immediately turns a

* These letters were written long before the 2d of June, 1780, but I cannot prevail upon myself to strike out this passage, though it looks like a satire upon my country.

mill. The water is as clear as chryſtal, and its bottom entirely covered with graſs, which the cattle dive for and pluck up by the roots.

L E T T E R XV.

Nimes, Nov. 5, 1776.

LUND, the only place of note on the road to Nimes, is renowned for the excellency of its muſcadine wines.

Aigueſmortes appears in the marſhy plain to the right: the alterations occaſioned by the lapſe of ages in its harbour and neighbourhood, have furniſhed ſubject of meditation for many modern philoſophers, who have ſtriven to explain the natural hiſtory of our planet, and account ſyſtematically for all its wonderful changes and convulſions. Saint Lewis embarked at Aigueſmortes, for his expedition againſt the Muſſelmens: the communication was then open from hence to the ſea for large veſſels; but the kings of France, having ſoon after got poſſeſſion of Provence, where they were provided with more convenient ports than this, neglected Aigueſmortes ſo entirely, that its canals filled with ſand, and its haven became a ſedgy pool: the number of its citizens decreaſed annually from ſickneſs, or deſertion; the few inhabitants, that ſtill remain within its walls, are bribed to ſtay by the advantageous privileges which the town enjoys, and by the profits ariſing from the great ſalt-works of Peuais. The laſt event that figures in the annals of Aigueſmortes, is the landing of the emperor Charles the Fifth, in the year 1539, and his magnificent reception by his generous rival Francis the Firſt.

Nimes is a large city, built within a ſemicircular range of rocky hills: violent north-eaſt winds blow for many weeks after the equinox, without intermiſſion, and diſpel the unwholeſome vapours, which have been collected in this confined atmosphere during the ſummer: all is open to the ſouth, as far as the Mediterranean, which is thought by ſome philoſophers to have waſhed the foot of the rocks of Nimes in ancient times; but this retreat of the waters muſt have taken place long before the Romans had extended their

con-

conquests to Gaul, as is evident from the observations of Pliny: that sagacious people would undoubtedly have availed themselves of such an advantage as a harbour, had there existed one at or near a place which they treated with distinguished marks of predilection. A colony was settled here by Marcus Agrippa, the son-in-law of Augustus*: succeeding emperors took a delight in embellishing Nimes with both sacred and civil edifices; no place on our side of the Alps retains so many, or such perfect monuments of ancient taste and magnificence, besides innumerable fragments, which have been made use of in building walls and gates in ages of barbarism.

The amphitheatre is one of the best preserved works of the kind now extant; its form is, as usual, elliptical: † on the outside are two orders, Tuscan and Doric, each of sixty arcades, divided in the first gallery by pilasters, in the second by columns; above all is a battlement or parapet, that either formed the pedestal of a third order, or crowned the second; perhaps the building was never raised higher, for there appear at this height, which is sixty-eight feet from the ground, projecting stones, bored through to receive the poles from which the awning was suspended over the spectators. Four gates gave admittance into the area, which is at present crowded with houses. I was told that upwards of three thousand persons dwell within ‡ its walls, most of them manufacturers, and professing the reformed religion. Above the houses, the seats and vomitoria are still entire, as are also the masks

* As the coin struck in this colony exhibits a crocodile tied to a palm-tree, and the heads of Caius and Lucius Cæsar, sons of Agrippa, it is probable that the veterans who formed this settlement, were drawn from legions that had served in Egypt and Syria, under the command of Agrippa, or his sons.

† The longest diameter of the area measures four hundred and sixteen French feet, the shortest three hundred and eighteen.

The substructions that support the seats and galleries are eighty-seven feet thick, so that the whole diameter of the amphitheatre is one way five hundred and ninety, and the other four hundred and ninety feet.

I have followed the measurement of Monsieur Clerisseau, given with the plans and elevations of the monuments of Nimes, because he is an architect, and either took the measures himself, or copied them from the papers of the late Comte de Caylus. They do not thoroughly agree with those marked in other books.

‡ The king has lately (1786) issued an edict for destroying these hovels, clearing out the area, and putting this noble edifice into proper repair.

and

and basso-relievos that adorned the keystones of the arches. The amphitheatre has suffered less from the wear of time than from fire, for Charles Martel is reported to have filled it with faggots, which he caused to be lighted, in hopes of destroying this solid building, which being turned into a fortress by the Saracens, had long resisted his assaults, and cost him numbers of his bravest soldiers; but the blocks of stone were so massive, and the work so firmly put together, that the flames had scarce any effect upon it, except blackening the surface.

The temple, usually ascribed to the worship of Diana, subsists with half its stone roof yet remaining. It is of the composite order, but in a heavy style of architecture: the situation is picturesque, on the brink of a large spring issuing out of the rock into a semi-circular basin fifty feet deep; the waters are conveyed from hence through a public garden, in various channels, adorned with balustrades, vases, and statues: this labyrinth of streams is said to be laid down as nearly as possible upon the ancient Roman plan. Numberless fragments of ornamental architecture have been found in cleaning the old canals, and copies of them employed in decorating the modern parapets. The stylobate, which probably served as a common pedestal to a line of columns, has been imitated, and is much admired for the elegance of its running pattern.

On the summit of the craggy hill, that overhangs the city, stands the Tour Magne, a pyramidal tower of several stories, to each of which a winding stair-case afforded access. The building contains below one large vaulted room of an irregular shape, with a conical roof; above it are six small cells, round at the bottom like a kettle, with apertures only at top, and not communicating with each other. Antiquaries differ as to the use made of this tower, while some call it a public treasury, others a granary, a third pronounces it to have been a light-house, and others a mausoleum. The view from hence is delightful, comprehending the whole city, its almost boundless plains, the sea, the mountains of Dauphiné, and the still more distant heights of Provence.

L E T T E R XVI.

TH E glory of Nimes is the Maison Quarrée, a barbarous appellation for one of the most perfect samples of an ancient temple, that the fury of barbarous conquerors, or still more savage zealots, has spared. It is a temple of the Corinthian order, with six columns in each front, and nine on the flanks, the whole raised upon a basement story, five feet six inches from the ground. The columns on the sides, and those in the south front, adhere to the wall; those in the north front form a pronaos or portico, extending under the roof as far back as the fourth column; here is the entrance of the temple, ornamented with pilasters; the door was formerly the only opening through which light was admitted, but windows have since been broken in the side walls. * The exact measures are given below for the satisfaction of artists: for those persons who

				French feet.	in.
* Length of the whole basement story	—	—	—	108	
Breadth of ditto	—	—	—	34	3
Length of the temple and portico	—	—	—	81	6
Breadth of ditto	—	—	—	42	6
Outside length of the temple, with the portico	—	—	—	53	6
Outside breadth of ditto	—	—	—	37	9
Inside length of ditto	—	—	—	48	10
Inside breadth of ditto	—	—	—	32	6
Thickness of the walls	—	—	—	2	10
Diameter of the columns	—	—	—	2	8
Diameter of their base	—	—	—	4	0
Intercolumniation of the sides	—	—	—	5	0
Height of columns	—	—	—	base	2 6
				shaft	23 0
				capital	3 2
Height of pediment	—	—	—	14	9
Breadth of the door	—	—	—	10	2
Intercolumniations of the front	—	—	—	{ 5 4	
				{ 4 9	
				{ 4 10	
Height of the basement and steps	—	—	—	5	6
Height of architrave	—	—	—	2	3
Ditto of frize	—	—	—	1	9
Ditto of cornice	—	—	—	2	3
					are

are not conversant in the rules of architecture, it will suffice to say that the elegance of proportion, the exquisite taste displayed in every ornament, the lightness of the whole building, and the harmony with which all the parts are connected, stand unrivalled by any work of the most refined art north of the Alps; but I do not think it is entitled to rank before every edifice that still perpetuates the glory of ancient architects in Italy, Greece, and Asia. It is apparent from the holes by which the brazen letters were fastened to the stone, that there was once an inscription on the frieze, torn down for the sake of the metal. The words of this inscription had remained a mystery, never satisfactorily explained by any antiquary, when Monsieur Seguier, of this city, thought of tracing the form of the letters by means of the relation which the holes bear to each other: the following lines were the result of this ingenious process.

C.C.A.E.S.A.R.I.A.V.G.V.S.T.I.F.C.O.S.L.C.A.E.S.A.

R.I.A.V.G.V.S.T.I.F.C.O.S.D.E.S.I.G.N.A.T.O.

P.R.I.N.C.I.P.V.S.I.V.V.E.N.T.V.T.I.S.

From this discovery he drew an inference that the temple was erected in the reign of Augustus, and was not a monument raised by Adrian to the memory of Plotina, as most preceding antiquaries had believed it to be.

Being convinced of the truth of his hypothesis, he supported it by the following arguments: the Pantheon built by Agrippa shews us that every thing beautiful in architecture was to be expected from the genius of the artists of that age, and the magnificence of the great men that employed them: the Maison Quarrée is a most admirable piece of structure, and therefore may with strict propriety be assigned to that æra: the names both of Agrippa and of his sons were probably held in high veneration by a colony to whose settlement and prosperity that general had contributed so essentially; nor could the Nemaufenses pay their court more effectually to the emperor, than by honouring as divinities those youths whom he looked upon as the pillars of his imperial house; but from the total change of interests and affections in the succeeding reigns, it would have been the height of imprudence afterwards to have paid this homage to Caius and Lucius Cæsar; and for that reason, the inscription being explained as above, the temple could not be dedicated later than the time of Augustus.

These are plausible arguments, but in my opinion, there are others to be deduced from internal evidence, that completely overthrow them. By the comparison which I draw between this building and the undoubted monuments of the Augustan age, I am fully persuaded that they are not coeval, but that the space of, at least, a century intervened between the different epochs of their erection. In the Maison Quarrée I perceive a profusion and minuteness of ornaments not to be found in the more simple architecture of the Augustan times; there is also a great variation in the proportions. The explanation of the dedicatory inscription given by Monsieur Seguiér, would have had more weight with me, had I not seen clearly that the disposition of the holes was not always uniform upon a repetition of the same letter; and that there were also several supernumerary ones, of which he made no use in placing his letters: he accounted for this redundancy by supposing them to be what painters call *pentimenti*, or mistakes which the workmen afterwards rectify by cutting others. The inside of this elegant structure has been repaired in a bad taste, in order to accommodate it to the purposes of the Christian worship: the Augustinian friars are the present possessors; and this adoption has preserved so valuable a relic of antiquity from the ruin which has overwhelmed so many magnificent edifices.

Monsieur Seguiér embraces almost every branch of the polite arts as well as of natural history, and by his extensive acquirements in science, comes near the idea of universal knowledge; with these merits he unites the most unaffected politeness and pleasing communicativeness. We experienced this amiable disposition during a long stay in his Musæum, which contains many fine assortments in natural history: the most complete and singular, is a collection of plants and fishes impressed upon a black, flaty, fossil substance.

L E T T E R XVII.

WHILE the Roman government retained its vigour, Nîmes continued to flourish as one of its most favoured transalpine settlements: the Antonines, whose family is supposed to have belonged to this colony, patronized

ized it in a distinguished manner; but when Rome sank beneath the weight of those torrents of barbarians that poured upon her from the forests of the North, Nîmes was one of the first cities that felt the fatal effects of her debility; its riches allured each rapacious invader, and repeated devastations soon laid its glories in the dust. Nîmes had suffered so much when the Visigoths obtained possession of this part of Gaul, that they gave the preference to Toulouse for the residence of their monarchs: they converted Nîmes into a frontier garrison, built towers upon the amphitheatre, and, overturning most other monuments of elegant taste, employed their fragments as materials of defence, without paying the least attention to their beauty. The amphitheatre thus metamorphosed stood several sieges, each of which contributed something towards disfiguring it. Under the Carlovingian kings, viscounts were appointed to keep the country in due subjection, but they soon took advantage of the decline of that royal house, to assume independence: from them the sovereignty of Nîmes passed to the earls of Toulouse, and followed the fate of their other dominions.

The reform of Calvin was early introduced into this city, where it struck deep and vigorous root; the Hugonots lived here in a manner independent of the regal authority, till Cardinal de Richelieu subdued them. A very large proportion of the Nimois, and of their immediate neighbours, still profess the protestant religion; to which they and their forefathers have adhered upwards of two hundred years with unremitting zeal, in spite of all the efforts of priests and monarchs. In the general wars of religion, they bore an active part, and also frequently rose up against government, when the rest of France was in profound peace.

The troubles of the Cevennes in the beginning of this century filled this part of Languedoc with bloodshed and desolation. The protestants, whose imaginations were exalted to a degree of frenzy by the preaching of their prophets, and the sense of their own distressful situation, made no scruple of exercising the most shocking barbarities upon their enemies and persecutors: on the other hand, the king's officers and soldiers retaliated these outrages, not only upon the Hugonots taken in arms, but also upon the whole body of peaceable inhabitants professing that doctrine. A dispassionate reader of such narratives is apt to accuse the historians of each party of monstrous exaggeration, humanely thinking that savage beasts alone are capable of perpetrating such deeds of blood.

But

But the crimes of that war lose their blackness, if compared with the cruelties of the *Michelade* in 1567, when the Calvinists suddenly took up arms at Nîmes, and made a general massacre of the catholics. This atrocious fact has been alleged in alleviation of the *Saint Barthelemi*, which happened five years afterwards; but there can be no just parallel drawn between the sudden though outrageous fanaticism that seized the Nimois, and led them to cut the throats and destroy the property of their fellow citizens, and the cool, premeditated plan of Charles the Ninth, founded upon the basest treachery and hypocrisy, under the sanction of oaths and sacraments.

After the revolt of the Cevennes was quelled in 1705, this province was suffered to enjoy some repose, but protestant conventicles and preachers obtained no further degree of toleration: marriages contracted between protestants continued to be deemed illegal and invalid; their meetings, though held in the most retired parts of the country, were disturbed by attacks from the civil and military power, and many of their ministers yearly hurried to the gallies. Of late years a greater latitude of indulgence has been given; the troops affect to mistake the place of rendezvous, or previous notice is sent to the assembly. The benevolent spirit of Lewis the Sixteenth will probably incline him to pass some law, by which their marriages may be rendered legal, and the birthrights of citizens be extended to their offspring.

The diocese of Nîmes is extremely fertile in corn, wine, oil, and other valuable productions. The inhabitants of the episcopal city, in number above forty thousand, apply with great industry to commerce, especially that of silk: their manufactures would flourish still more, could they be freed from numberless duties and oppressive monopolies, which at present harass the trader, and check the spirit of enterprize. Catherine of Medicis is said to have introduced silk-worms into France; but the first establishment of a silk manufacture appears to date no higher than the reign of Henry the Fourth, or his son Lewis the Thirteenth.

L E T T E R XVIII.

Nimes.

WE are just returned from an excursion to Arles, where the beauties of situation, and numerous remains of antiquity, made us ample amends for our fatigues. We travelled part of the way in a rich plain, where a great number of fowlers were stationed, turning small mirrors in order to dazzle the larks, and draw them down within reach of their guns. A range of gravelly hills then intervened between this flat country and the boundless levels that line the course of the Rhone. We ferried over a branch of this river into the island of the Camargue,* and then passed by a bridge of boats into Arles, which rises nobly from the water edge up a gentle acclivity. Its circumference is not great, nor the present population numerous; the appearance it now makes is widely different from what it was, when Constantine the Great, and after him his sons honoured it with their presence. Then theatres, palaces, and amphitheatres were raised on every side, to receive and entertain these mighty guests, and Arles became the center of government, the rival of Marseilles in the trade of Italy: thither the inhabitants of the northern districts came to purchase the gaudy superfluities of luxury, and from thence carried back into their forests, new wants and the vices of more refined nations. The urbanity which a splendid court is wont to diffuse around the place of its residence, polished the manners of the Arelatians to a superior degree above the citizens of other towns; and if I may credit the report of travellers, who have remained there long enough to form acquaintances, this softness of manners, and ease of behaviour, are still perceptible in the societies of its nobility; holding a pleasing medium betwixt the formality of the long robe, that leads the fashion at Aix, and the familiarity, which at Marseilles is acquired by habits of traffick.

The glory of Arles faded with that of Rome; and from the day that Honorius submitted to the dictates of the barbarian powers, this city became involved in continual disquietudes and distresses; besieged, plundered, depo-

* The Camargue is an island eighteen miles in length, formed by two branches of the Rhone. It is extremely fertile, and feeds an incredible number of horses and cattle which are almost wild. The horses are active and hardy, but unruly and ugly.

pulated, by every passing swarm of conquerors, it fell to ruin, commerce fled from its deserted wharfs to seek prosperity in other ports; the canals that were wont to bestow fertility upon its sun-burnt plains, and to convey their rich productions to a ready sale, were left without repairs or support, and soon choaked up with sand, forming heads to numberless torpid pools, the nests of infection and disease.*

Arles thus abandoned to misery, languished many centuries, but even at its most disastrous period, while its ruined edifices were yet reeking with the fire which the Saracens had kindled, Boson, the brother-in-law of Charles the Bald, chose it for the capital of a kingdom which he had erected out of many usurped provinces. After passing through two families, this title devolved upon the imperial house of Swabia, a great but unfortunate race of princes, that failed in the year 1268. Long before this epocha their power in Provence had been reduced to an empty name; for on one hand the earls of Provence had usurped whatever territory lay convenient for them; and on the other, several of the most powerful cities had, in imitation of those of Lombardy, cast off the yoke, and formed themselves into republics. The people of Arles asserted their independence about the year 1220, and chose annual podestats to govern them.—At the end of thirty years this infant and ill-established commonwealth was obliged to submit to the authority of Charles, the first earl of Provence, of the house of Anjou, too formidable an antagonist to be resisted with any reasonable hopes of success. The kings of France succeeded in later times to the rights of the earls of Provence; and the emperor Charles the Fourth made over to his nephew Charles the Fifth, king of France, all the claims he might have upon Arles and its territory.

The streets of this city are narrow, but the houses in general are well built; it abounds in rich clergy and poor nobility: trade seems at a low ebb.

In the same square with the cathedral and the archiepiscopal palace, stands the town-hall, a shewy insulated building; its staircase is ornamented with pieces of antique sculpture and the cast of a female figure, which was dug up here in the last century, and furnished matter for many dissertations, tending to ascertain the divinity it was meant to represent; the statue was sent to

* Since the French monarchs have possessed Provence, these evils have been in some measure remedied; but there are yet many parts of the environs of Arles that are exceedingly feverish and unwholesome in summer.

Verfailles, where Girardon the ſculptor made a Venus of it. A votive altar inſcribed to the Bona Dea by her prieſteſs, is remarkable for an oaken crown, that ſurrounds the inſcription, and two human ears with ear-rings. The apartments are noble; in one is a fine portrait of Cardinal de Richelieu.

Many inſcriptions are alſo preſerved at the archbiſhop's, and before his gate ſtand a mutilated column, and an Egyptian obeliſk of grey granite, without hieroglyphics; it is forty-ſeven French feet high, on a baſe raiſed ſeven feet from the ground, and is ſuppoſed to have been brought from Egypt about the year 354, when Conſtantius celebrated the Circenſian games at Arles with great magnificence. It lay buried in ruſh many ages, till a reviving taſte for the arts brought it out of its obſcurity in the ſixteenth century, but it was not raiſed till the year 1676, when it was placed upon a pedeſtal with great ceremony, and loaded with a moſt flattering inſcription in honour of the king.

In the herb-market two pillars, the remains of a portico, yet ſupport the angle ſtones of a Corinthian frize much broken; by the help of holes cut upon it, Monſieur Seguier has diſcovered that the building was erected in the time of the firſt Chriſtian emperor. The only remnants of the theatre are two compoſite columns belonging to the ſide of the ſtage.

The amphitheatre is of a ſmaller dimension than that of Nimes, but, like it, is diſfigured by the miſerable dwellings of the poor: it never was finiſhed, the work having probably been interrupted by the prohibition iſſued againſt gladiatorial ſhews ſoon after Chriſtianity aſcended the throne of the Cæſars. Through a ſtrong attachment to thoſe ſanguinary entertainments tranſmitted from father to ſon ſince Provence belonged to the Romans, or at leaſt, ſince it was ſubject to the kings of Aragon, the people of Arles retained the taſte for bull-feaſts down to the preſent age; wild bulls were frequently driven from the Camargue, and combats exhibited in the ancient amphitheatre before a vaſt concourſe of ſpectators, who were agitated by the ſame fierce emotions, and expreſſed them with the ſame frantic acclamations, that reſounded in the ſhews of ancient Rome, and are ſtill to be heard in the bull-feaſts of Spain. The frequent loſs of human lives induced government to abolish theſe ſavage ſports at Arles.

This amphitheatre conſiſts of two orders or ſtories of arcades, divided below by Tuſcan pilaſters, above by columns, of which the order cannot be diſ-

H

covered,

covered, as their upper part is wanting: all the shafts are less imperfect at the same height, and the sixty arches of this story remain without any stone work above them, which proves beyond a doubt that the building was never finished. There is no trace of seats, podium, or other interior works necessary for an edifice of this kind; it is placed on an eminence, and the architect has excavated the hill in such a manner as to form a subterraneous or basement floor, by means of vast galleries, halls, and recesses, which are either cut in the rock, or built with square stone. The entrance into this dark labyrinth is in the side of the hill: it is not easy to give a rational guess at the use of these vaults, which have no communication with the upper stories; they probably were intended for magazines and cellars.

Without the walls of the city is a rocky hill called the Eliscamps, almost wholly covered with stone coffins, in some of which were deposited the ashes of pagans, in others the bodies of Christians: the adjoining church belonging to the Minimes, is full of ancient sarcophagi, funeral inscriptions, and figures: one small mausoleum remains on the hill, with some of its colombaria or niches, wherein the urns were placed, yet entire. In the midst of the cemetery, an obelisk marks the grave of four consuls of Arles, victims to the plague of 1720, which from Marseilles spread its destructive contagion, though not with equal fatality, along the coast of the Mediterranean, and into the inland districts of Provence.

We were delighted with the dress of the women we met returning from market; it reminded us of the airy garments upon the dancing nymphs of Herculaneum. These peasant girls wear light, open mantles, loosely flowing to their knees, over a short petticoat, that discovers their taper legs and silk stockings; bracelets of gold beads adorn their wrists; a silk handkerchief confines part of their jet black locks, without hiding their keen eyes and animated countenances: this easy habit suits admirably with the elegance of their form and the suppleness of their limbs.

L E T T E R XIX.

Avignon, Nov. 10.

REMOULINS is the first port from Nimes, and near it the river Gardon has worn itself a deep bed in the heart of a wild, mountainous country; the sides of the dell through which it flows are joined together by a bridge of three rows of arches, one above another, built by the Romans to support an aqueduct that conveyed the waters of two springs from Uzez to Nimes. Many fragments of this aqueduct, which was above seventeen miles long, are still standing in various parts of the hills. The above-mentioned bridge, known by the name of the *Pont du Gard*, is entire. The lowest stage or order rests upon the rock, and contains six arches, to which a collateral bridge was added in the year 1747, wide enough for carriages. The second row is composed of eleven arches, six of which are perpendicular to those of the first; a considerable part of the piers of this middle order had been scooped out to afford a passage for horsemen, but when the bridge below was doubled, this way was built up. The uppermost range consists of thirty-five arches, and above it is the channel for the water covered with large flags.*

The only inscription yet discovered consists of the four letters A. Æ. A. which have occasioned a great variety of opinions and explanations among

* Measures. Lowest Row.

Diameter of the arches	58	French feet; the middle one, under pillars 18 which the river passes, is 70 wide.

Height	83
--------	----

Height of parapet	8
-------------------	---

Middle Row

Diameter of the arches	56
------------------------	----

of the pillars	15
----------------	----

Height	67
--------	----

Height of the parapet	6½
-----------------------	----

Uppermost Row

Diameter of the arches	17
------------------------	----

pillars	5½
---------	----

Height	32
--------	----

Height of the channel for water	3½
---------------------------------	----

H 2

the

the learned.* Some attribute the work to Agrippa; others to Adrian, and others to the Antonines: it certainly does not belong to a later period, for its solidity, justness of proportion, and simplicity of style, are too striking to leave a suspicion in our minds that it could be designed or built by the artists of subsequent ages. While I contemplated this stupendous pile, stretching sublimely from rock to rock across the valley, and the broad stream of the Gardon rolling with ease through its wide arches, I felt my mind strongly impressed with veneration for those extraordinary men, who had the spirit to plan, and the force to rear such colossal monuments of their art. No difficulties could dismay them, none could occur that were not removed by their persevering efforts; the life of a Roman foldier was spent in continual toils; his victorious hands, that had bowed the stubborn barbarian to the yoke, were afterwards employed in securing the tranquillity and obedience of the conquered province, by raising stupendous mounds and fortifications, or in procuring with incredible pains the conveniences and luxuries of life for the settlements established within them: scarce is there a corner of the world, which was known to the ancients, where the traveller does not to this day, meet with stately memorials of their indefatigable and elevated genius.

Soon after quitting the vale of the Gardon we reached the top of the hills, from which we overlooked the whole Comtat Venaissin, and the city of Avignon. The Rhone itself is so broad and majestic a stream, that it suffices alone to give dignity to a landscape; the awfulness of an immense plain terminated by the blue mountains of Dauphiné, excites sublime ideas, and rivets the attention upon the general effect of so vast a scene, without suffering it to wander, and waste itself on minuter lights flowing from the various objects that compose it.

A grand monastery of Benedictine monks at Villeneuve commands a nearer view of the river and city. At every step we advanced as we descended the hill, new beauties of prospect displayed themselves, till at last we reached the banks of the Rhone, where a venerable old tower nods over the most rapid of currents.

* Not one of the applications that I have seen agrees with these initials; those who read the name of Ælius Adrianus in them did not know that Adrian is always written on his medals with an H. Perhaps it may be decyphered thus, *Aqueductum Ædificabat Agrippa*.

Here

Here once was fixed the extremity of the bridge of Avignon, begun in the year 1177 at the solicitation of Benezet, a young shepherd, who pretended a mission from heaven for collecting alms towards building a bridge across the Rhone. The legend says that he enforced his preaching by miracles, and raised such a sum as proved sufficient not only to complete that undertaking, but also to endow a hospital, and create a fund for the future repairs of the bridge. Whatever we may think of the miracles of this young architect, the chronicles of Avignon attest the reality of his existence: perhaps the artful magistrates, seeing the necessity of a bridge, and conscious of their own inability to erect one, brought forward this pious artifice to captivate the benevolence, and excite the generosity of a devout and unenlightened age. This bridge was the boast of the country, but the Rhone has long torn down and buried in its whirlpools the greater part of it; at present a perilous ferry affords the only access from the western shore.

L E T T E R XX.

Avignon.

AVIGNON is about three miles and two furlongs in circumference, surrounded by handsome battlemented walls and turrets, not unlike those of Rome; its ditches are shaded by pleasant avenues of elms. The number of inhabitants is not proportioned to the extent, for it amounts only to thirty thousand souls, of which above a thousand are ecclesiastics, and some hundreds Jews. From the opposite hills this city seems a forest of steeples, the bells of which are never at rest; by day and night scarce a minute can be counted undisturbed by some bell or other, either rousing the monks and nuns to their duty in the choir, or giving the more welcome summons to their repasts; this incessant tinkling made Rabelais call it the *Isle sonnante*, an appellation I felt all the force of during every night of our stay. One of these bells is of silver, and rung upon no occasion but the death of the Pope. Clergymen and friars swarm in the streets, as may well be expected in this little Rome, but they have not brought with them the Roman taste in building and decorating either their own abodes, or the temples of the divinity. The streets are nar-

row

row and dirty, as must needs be the case, where all manner of filth is emptied out of the windows: the dismal lanes, in which the Jews are styeed, are absolute sinks of nastiness and infection: nothing less than the fierce and steady winds that predominate here for many weeks at a time, could purify so fetid an atmosphere, and preserve the town from plagues, and epidemical diseases.

The public edifices are large, solid, and as grand as the taste of the age could make them, for most of them were built in the fourteenth century, while the Popes resided here; they occupy the most elevated point within the walls; the cathedral is small and dull, offering nothing to the curiosity of the traveller, save a silver altar, many costly vestments, and the tombs of Pope John the Twenty-second, and Benedict the Twelfth*. The church of the Cordeliers is noted for the boldness and loftiness of its roof, but much more for the tomb of Petrarch's Laura, who during her life, and after her decease, received the tribute of his muse in more copious numbers than were ever inspired by any ancient or modern fair one: he sang her charms, and his love, in four hundred songs or sonnets. Petrarch is classed by the Italians in the first rank of poets, rather on account of the purity of his language, and the terse propriety of his expression, than either the originality and fire of his imagination, or the variety of his ideas: so greatly do his merits depend upon the manner in which he has clothed his thoughts, that it requires great habit of the Italian tongue to feel their value, and therefore few foreigners can taste his beauties in the original, or admire him when translated. Laura and her husband, Hugh de Sade, rest in an obscure corner of the church, under a monument distinguished only by an obliterated scroll, and a mullet, which was the arms of the family. Francis the First, himself a poet and a passionate admirer of the fair sex, caused the tomb to be opened in his presence, and having read the verses Petrarch had deposited with the remains of his adored mistress, closed down the lid, and inscribed it with some lines of his own composition. Another gallant and rhyming monarch, René of Anjou, has left many productions of his at Avignon, both in poetry and painting, but they are more curious on account of their singularity, than of their excellence.

* John the Twenty-second began his reign in 1316, died in 1334. Benedict the Twelfth was elected 1334, died 1342.

The Romans made this one of their stations; from the destruction of their empire to the fourteenth century, Avignon experienced numberless vicissitudes of fortune, and changes of masters, in common with the rest of the country. In the year 1348 Joan queen of Naples, and countess of Provence, being driven out of Italy, and unable to recover her Neapolitan crown through want of money, sold, or mortgaged this city to the Pope for eighty thousand florins of gold, not thirty thousand pounds sterling. The sovereign pontiffs fixed their seat here during a period of seventy-two years, and from hence ruled Europe with despotic sway, though at the same time they were mocked, and rejected by the factious people of Rome, and durst not trust their persons within the walls of their own capital. Gregory the Eleventh, in 1377, yielded to the persuasions of S. Catherina of Sienna, and the solicitations of the penitent Romans, and surmounting both his fear and resentment, established once more the pontifical residence at the Vatican. Since that time this territory has been governed by Legats, or Vicelegats. The Comtat Venaissin had belonged to the Pope since 1273, being a gift of Philip the Hardy, king of France.

The vices of an ecclesiastical government, always fluctuating and ephemeral, operate even at this distance to the discouragement of industry, trade, and population: the inhabitants scattered over the face of one of the richest plains in the universe, are not sufficiently numerous to cultivate it thoroughly; trade is not carried on with that emulation and activity, which ought to be inspired by the proximity of so noble a river, and so happy a situation, in the center of a fertile country, and upon the great roads of communication between the Mediterranean and the capital of France. Smuggling indeed is pursued in a very spirited manner with the adjacent provinces, but whether to the real advantage of the Comtat or not, is hard to determine: it either encourages idleness, or diverts the attention of the active part of the community from labours that would redound more to their own happiness, and the welfare of the state. But can it be expected that an Italian prelate and his crew of subaltern priests, should feel themselves sufficiently interested in the prosperity of a country, where their power is short lived, and which they always consider as foreign to them, to meditate, much less to execute projects for its amelioration?

These

These and other reasons have led many speculators in politics to think, that the people of the Comtat would be great gainers, were the king of France to set aside the deed of sale by queen Joan, and incorporate it unalienably with the rest of his kingdom. I am clearly of another opinion; for what would the people gain? More neighbours to fill their plains and increase their culture—greater crowds on their roads, and clamour on their wharfs—more bustle in their streets, and more activity in their husbandry—some of their families would be illustrated by dignities and titles, and some enormous fortunes raised by trade, or the handling of the public revenue:—But with all these benefits, allowing them their highest value, must they not receive a swarm of devouring locusts, an army of tax-gatherers and monopolisers? Must not their taxes be prodigiously augmented, their salt, their tobacco, raised to such a price as to exclude the poorer class of citizens from a daily enjoyment of them? Must they not submit to the peremptory sway of intendants, subdelegates, military governors, and a long train of oppressive ministers, instead of the drowsy, but mild administration of their present masters, who want the power, if not the will, of raising more than the stipulated contributions? The inhabitants are too few for the extent of country, are indolent, and do not make the most of the riches nature presents on every side: I grant it, but they are already entitled to all the privileges of Frenchmen, if they choose to claim them, and at the same time they enjoy almost the independence of republicans. The first necessities, and many of the superfluities of life, are cheap here; impositions are few and light; the husbandman is not dragged from his plough to garrison unwholesome fortresses, or pine in the cold and wet, to guard a coast against invaders: no districts are here reserved for the diversion of their sovereign, nor are their harvests devoured before their eyes by myriads of useless animals, which it is a capital offence to destroy, or even to molest. Then where shall I find a set of men that possess such means of happiness as the cultivators of this delicious plain?

L E T-

L E T T E R XXI.

Avignon.

HOW many times and how ardently have I not longed for a sight of Vacluse; how many times have I not lamented that I had passed repeatedly through France, without extending my journey as far as the banks of the Sorgue, and the heavenly fields celebrated by Petrarch!

I have seen Vacluse, and am disappointed. A huge cavern yawning at the foot of a perpendicular wall of bare rocks, and a large body of water issuing through the chinks of the stone, from an unfathomable pool that fills the cave, are undoubtedly bold, horrid features of nature; but I have seen the like in many mountainous countries in much greater perfection: here is not a single tree, not a bush to enliven the dull uniformity of the cliff, nor any lofty barrier of rock, over which the stream may rush in grand cascades; the landscape is dreary and frightful, without romantic beauty. From the ruins called Petrarch's Villa, the view extends over a fine country, but that immediately under the eye is not agreeable, though watered by the Sorgue meandering through the meadows. Vacluse itself has not indeed answered my too sanguine expectations; but it is not so with the delightful vale I traversed before I reached this head of the Sorgue. A shady avenue of elms, poplars, and mulberry trees, led me insensibly from the gates of Avignon into the heart of a most fertile garden, for I can give no other name to a vast tract of level ground, where innumerable canals of the most limpid water impart a due degree of moisture to thousands of inclosures, covered with the greatest variety of productions; artificial and natural grasses, pulse, fruits, and corn are so intermingled, as to compose a lively many-coloured parterre: a chain of hills covered with vines, and crowned with tufts of trees, serve as the border to this rich expanse. I have also visited Orange, once the capital of a sovereign principality possessed by the families of Baux, Chalons, and last of Nassau: at present it is reunited to the royal domain. While France directed all its efforts towards the destruction of the Spanish power, the Stadtholders of Holland were maintained in their possession of this little state; but as soon as William the Third declared himself the opposer

I

and

and enemy of Lewis the Fourteenth, that monarch confiscated the principality of Orange; each subsequent peace stipulated its restitution; but at last, on the death of the king of England in 1702, Orange was declared to have escheated to the crown of France. This forced submission, and the demolition of the protestant churches, caused a rapid emigration, and soon reduced the city to a state of poverty and solitude. Orange was a post of consequence under the Romans, who called it *Colonia Secundanorum*, and erected many sumptuous edifices for the use and entertainment of its inhabitants: part of them are still to be seen. The principal monuments are, 1st. A triumphal arch of the Corinthian order, now menacing ruin, the pillars that have been built to support it being too weak for the purpose: it is decorated with trophies of various kinds, composed of masts, sails, and prows of galleys, shields, coats of mail, helmets, and weapons: on the shields are inscriptions not satisfactorily decyphered by the learned. On one is *MARIO*, on another *SACROVIR*, a third has *AVOD*, and a fourth *DACVDO*, most likely the names of soldiers or architects. The antiquarians of the country insist upon it that this monument was destined to commemorate the signal victory obtained by Caius Marius in the 61st year of Rome, over the joint armies of the Cimbri and Teutones; they found their arguments upon the word *Mario* engraved on the shield, and the head of a female figure represented looking out of a window, whom they take to be Martha the Syrian prophetess, that accompanied Marius in his Gallic expedition: but there seems to be little reason for a trophy being erected at Orange on account of a victory gained near Aix; besides, the naval ornaments, and the tritons at the corners, point out a combat at sea, or upon the Rhone.—Other writers conjecture that it was raised upon the defeat of the Allobroges, twenty years before. This arch is sixty feet in front, and profusely covered with sculpture, but the workmanship is not delicate, nor the design agreeable; the style belongs to the age of Adrian and the Antonines. In that of Marius, and the conquerors of the Allobroges, architecture was in a rude state at Rome, and a monument erected by them would have been as plain and modest as this is overcharged with ornaments and ostentatious. But Rome had not then deviated so much from the austere simplicity of her republican principles, as to suffer her generals to erect trophies of their victories. 2d. The ruins of a theatre vulgarly called *Le Cirque*. This building conveys a better idea of an antique theatre, and explains more clearly its

its forms and distribution than any remains now extant; for in all, except those of the theatre at Tuormina, the *scena* is wanting. Here it is infinitely more perfect than in Sicily, and consists of two walls thirteen feet asunder; the outermost is of the stupendous height of one hundred and fifteen feet, being three hundred and thirty in length, covered in its whole extent by a broad coping; the masonry is regular, and unimpaired. Below the coping or cornice is a row of projecting stones, bored through for the reception of tent poles, to hold the awning over the spectators. Next is a cordon, and at an equal distance beneath, another line of stones that seem intended to support the joists of a floor: under them is a range of twenty-one false arches, the center one of which exceeds the rest in height. Below is a third string of toothings, and then, resting on the ground, an arcade of seventeen arches or doors, at different intervals, and various elevations; the middle one is much higher and wider than the others. Within this vast line of building, a second wall rises to the height of the cornice, that covers the false arches; the middle part of it is indented in a semicircular form, and was probably the *pulpitum*, or part of the stage principally devoted to the action, as two narrow side doors give admittance into it from the galleries, that filled up the space between the walls. This interior wall is joined at each end to a large square tower advancing into the *orchestra* or pit, as far as the extremity of the benches, which may yet be traced in a vast semicircle on the declivity of the hill, to a height equal with that of the front wall; they were all so contrived as to afford the spectator a complete view of the stage from every part of the semicircle. The company entered by great gates on each side between the benches and the towers; the actors and workmen were admitted through the center door, which answered to a hall under the stage, and through four smaller doors, that opened into the lateral towers. The remaining twelve openings in the outer wall served as entrances into magazines. This lofty pile crosses at right angles a small oblong plain, even yet unincumbered with buildings; it has all the appearance of having been the stadium or field, where the Circensian games were exhibited; many parts of the wall, such as imperfect arches, interrupted cornices, and toothings, indicate that there were galleries, and seats affixed to it for the purpose of beholding the races and other entertainments. The wall thus served a double purpose, and while it backed the *scena* of the theatre, was employed also in supporting scaffolds for the shews of the Circus: it does not

seem natural that this majestic ruin should have acquired the uncommon name of a circus, had it never been any thing but a theatre, and therefore I am of opinion that the name has been handed down from the time of the Romans by a regular tradition.

The vestiges of an amphitheatre, part of an aqueduct, some mosaics, and a few inscriptions, complete the list of antiquities of Orange.

L E T T E R XXII.

Marseilles, Nov. 14.

FROM Avignon we crossed a marshy country and the river Durance to St. Remy, a town built about a mile from the ruins of Glanum Livii. I was not able, during our short stay, to discover any other vestiges of the city than the two pieces of antiquity which had induced us to quit the post road; one is a mausoleum, the other a triumphal arch; they stand a few yards distant from each other, but it does not appear to me that there ever was any connection between them, as is pretended by some authors, who think that they were erected by the same persons, and in the Augustan age. In my opinion they were built at very different periods of the art, the sculpture and architecture of the arch being much more chaste and perfect than those of the mausoleum; the latter is composed of a pedestal, ornamented in basso relievo with combats of cavalry and infantry, over which hangs a net full of fishes, and borne up by genii and masks; at each angle is placed an Ionic pilaster; this pedestal sustains a square mass, pierced through with an arch in each front, flanked by Corinthian columns; the architrave is charged with this inscription:

SEXLMIVLIEICFPARENTIBVSSVIS.

Sextus, Lucius, and Marcus, sons of Caius Julieus, *erected this* to their parents.

The frize is adorned with snakes and winged dragons; above, is a circular pedestal and colonnade of twelve fluted Corinthian pillars, short and thick in their proportions; the entablement is covered with a conical dome: under it appears a *togated* and a *stolated* figure of very different stature, without heads,

pro-

probably the effigies of the persons to whose memory this tomb was consecrated. The whole building is light and pleasing to the eye, but upon an examination of its separate members, will be found faulty in many of its proportions; the columns are too short for their diameter, the roof is too heavy; perhaps, as was frequently the custom of the ancient masters, the architect sacrificed all consideration for the minuter parts to the general effect; and calculated the proportions so as to produce a proper sensation on the beholder at some certain point of distance, where the situation of the ground, or the projection of adjacent buildings, obliged him to take his stand to view it.

The arch has suffered severely by time and dilapidations; all the upper part is destroyed, and only the gateway and a portion of the side-walls subsist. In both fronts the impost, from which the arch springs, rest upon pilasters, and on each side of them are fluted columns of the Corinthian order, with their pedestals, which supported the general entablature, but scarce a third of the shafts remains. Between each pair of columns stands the figure of a slave, one male, the other female, and in the triangle above the arch are the fragments of two winged victories: the ceiling of the gateway is delicately wrought in hexagon compartments. All that is yet left of this venerable pile bespeaks the happy taste of architecture, that flourished under the first Roman emperors; the science was then simple and correct, not yet sophisticated by that surcharge of ornament which debased and disfigured it in the following ages.

The country from hence grew bare and rocky; the banks of the rambling Durance stony and disagreeable.

We passed through Lambese, a town belonging to the house of Lorraine; here the committee of the States of Provence is held: the states themselves have not been called together since the year 1639; but to supply their place with greater convenience to government, the king issues out a commission annually to the archbishop of Aix, two bishops, two gentlemen, the consuls of Aix, and thirty-five deputies of districts, ordering them to assemble under the direction of the military commandant, and the intendant of the province. In this meeting are settled the free gifts to the king, and all extraordinary impositions; the method of imposing and collecting the taxes is regulated by the number of families in each district.

Aix,

Aix, the capital of Provence, and the seat of its parliament, lies in a bottom; the grounds that encircle it, are beautifully diversified. Its size is not considerable, but the streets are of a convenient breadth, the squares well planted, and the buildings solid; the town is plentifully supplied with streams of water, flowing on all sides from the impending hills.

The Cours or Orbitelle is a magnificent walk above three hundred yards long, formed by a triple avenue of venerable elms, that screen two rows of regular and stately houses; it is refreshed by four fountains; one of its extremities is closed by the front of a church, the other admits a cheerful view of the country. The cathedral is a clumsy gothic pile; the cupola of its baptismal font is supported by six columns of marble and two of granite, found among the ruins of a Roman palace. Here, and in the other churches of the city, are to be seen the tombs of several earls of Provence, and some good pictures by French painters; in that of the Minims is a small elegant monument erected by Frederic the Second, king of Prussia, to the memory of his friend the Marquis d'Argens, author of the *Lettres Juives*.

The civil buildings of this place are not remarkable, nor are there any great remains of antique magnificence, though this was the first settlement made in Gaul by the Romans: one hundred and twenty-four years before Christ, C. Sextius Calvinus conducted an army hither, to succour the people of Marseilles against the Salvii, a Celtic tribe. The discovery of some tepid springs determined the consul to fix a station in this valley, and these warm baths, which by habit, were become a necessary part of the existence of a Roman, soon brought an affluence of inhabitants to the colony. The barbarian conquerors of Rome, who despised this luxury, overturned the sumptuous edifices that defended the waters and the bathers from injury, and buried the springs under a mountain of ruins and rubbish: it is not above a century since they were accidentally brought again to light: they are scarce warm, and almost tasteless, but are drunk in spring by a concourse of people, upon whom they operate as gentle deterfive physic.

A rocky road over parched-up wastes leads across the hills towards Marseilles. It is impossible for either poet or painter to give an adequate idea of the wonderful view that burst at once upon us when we gained the summit. The brown crag, that crowns the height where we stood, slopes gently from it into thickets of evergreen flowering shrubs: these cover a large circle below,
and

and terminate irregularly in fields of various culture, where the olive and other fruit trees are at first thinly dotted upon the grounds, but by degrees thicken into clumps, and soon into groves, till they form at last one wide expanded forest; beyond them, the apparent plain, for in reality it is a heap of little hills, is intersected in ten thousand directions by walls, near each of which stands a small pavilion called a *bastide*, as white as milk, strikingly opposed to the greens and yellows of the gardens that surround it: a dark border incloses this space, and separates it from the sea, that immense body of waters which seems to be raised half-way up to the firmament; the line of its horizon is lost at each extremity behind far distant groupes of mountains; on its surface numberless ships are scattered like white spots, changing their place with a motion not to be followed by the eye. In a semicircular bay, deeply cut into the shore, lies the city of *Marseilles*, huddled together, and defended by the islands, that seem to block up the entrance of its narrow channel. I descended with reluctance from this commanding station, and soon after beheld myself immured between high walls, suffocated with dust, and poisoned by the stench of the manure, which innumerable mules convey from the city to the vineyards.

L E T T E R XXIII.

Marseilles.

WE have settled ourselves for a month in a villa without the gates;—and from our windows enjoy a prospect of great part of the city, bay, and islands, with a fine stretch of sea and coast.

You who are acquainted with all my tastes and affections, may easily conceive how my heart must dilate, while I gaze upon so admirable a picture in this clearest of atmospheres: you also well know with what enthusiasm I am fired when I read or talk of the exploits, the arts, the learning, and the virtues of ancient Greece; and can therefore imagine with what veneration I view this Grecian colony, and meditate upon its history, and that incomparable system of administration, which obtained the praise of the most judicious authors among the ancients. Even now *Marseilles* commands our
respect

respect as a great commercial port; few cities can vie with it in extent of enterprize, in the various commodities displayed upon its wharfs, or in the number of vessels that sail from hence to all parts of the world; but these advantages are not entirely its own; it is now but an active member of a great monarchy, and I am considering it, as it once was, mistress of itself, and the benefactress of surrounding nations.

Six hundred years before Christ, the inhabitants of the Ionian city of Phoea, having joined in the general but unsuccessful insurrection of the Greek colonies in Lesser Asia, against the Persian king, fled to their ships, and, rather than meet his vengeance, abandoned for ever the abode of their forefathers. They were long tossed about on the waves, and wandered to many ports in quest of a retreat, where they might enjoy the blessings of liberty, and the fruits of their industry: chance, or some reason unknown to us, brought them to the shores of Gaul, where they built a city, called Massylia. Their manners, institutes, and language continued for many ages to be Grecian; their fame, as a trading nation, was equal to that of Carthage, and the spirit, with which their navigators explored unknown coasts, was celebrated by the unanimous voice of antiquity. Their political institutes and internal administration, were still more admired; the wisdom, which directed their councils, preserved harmony at home, and eluded the malice, or repelled the insults of the neighbouring barbarians: but their safety arose from a sense of their favours, rather than the terror of their arms; the Gauls were indebted to the Massylians for instruction of every kind; the Massylians were their masters not only in morals, politics, and learning, but they also taught them how to procure the necessaries and comforts of life with more ease and certainty, and in greater abundance. These benefits insured them the respect and gratitude of the Gauls, till commerce, which seldom fails to corrupt the people it enriches, introduced vices that poisoned the sources from whence the prosperity of the state had arisen. Then the Gauls began to perceive a change in the character of the Greeks, less probity in their dealings, and more ambition marked by the transactions of commerce; this gave birth to jealousies, and no doubt provoked the Salvians to those hostilities, which obliged the senate of Marseilles to call in the Romans, and thus afford that all-usurping power a pretext for crossing the Alps. In the civil wars of Rome, Marseilles took part with Pompey, was besieged, stormed by Cæsar, and reduced to the state of a tributary.

In

In the decline of the Roman empire, Marfeilles, having loft all virtue and energy with its independence, dwindled away to a mere ruin; nor did it recover any degree of confequence till one of the kings of Arles, in the ninth century, beftowed it as an appennage upon a younger fon. It remained under the government of viscounts, or of its own magiftrates, till the earls of Provence conquered it.

Marfeilles ftands upon a declivity and embraces the port, which runs about one thoufand fix hundred paces into the land. The old town is the moft elevated, but it is ill built, filthy, and gloomy. The ftreets of the new town are fpacious, and full of neat, good habitations. The Cours is a very noble ftreet, planted with a double row of trees between lines of houfes built upon a fymmetrical defign, and ornamented with porticos and columns. In the evening, efpecially that of a holiday, it is crowded with people, and forms one of the moft variegated and lively fcenes I ever beheld. This climate is exceffively hot in fummer, though tempered at certain hours by the breeze off the fea; in winter the north-eaft winds that blow for many weeks together, are the moft cutting I ever felt; but when they ceafe, the winter days of this country are as pleafant as the fineft fummer ones in our northern regions.

In moft of the churches are paintings of merit by Puget and other mafters of the French fchool; but Puget's fame arifes more defervedly from his admirable works in fculpture, of which many are to be feen in this his native city. The efcutcheon of the royal arms over the door of the town hall, is a piece of exquisite tafte and delicacy of touch.

The abbey of St. Victor contains a great quantity of tombs, and ancient infcriptions, in honour both of chriftians and pagans. It is one of the oldeft monaftical foundations in France; feveral eminent perfonages have belonged to its fociety, and there imbibed the principles of thofe virtues, and the rudiments of that knowledge, which afterwards raifed them to the higheft dignities of the church.

The harbour is fhut up with a chain, and fhips of war or heavy burden ufually ride at anchor in the road between the iflands and the main land, but there is always a great crowd of fmall veffels in the port; the ufual number to be feen amounts at leaft to five hundred, and it is computed that near four thoufand fhips and barks enter this port in the courfe of a year. Along the

fine quay that lines it, the stir and bustle is prodigious; a moving picture that is enlivened by the great variety of dresses, the gesticulations and expressive countenances of the persons that compose it.

The galley slaves, except when employed at work, chained in pairs, pass their time in a part of the quay, lying near the galleys, which are used merely as places of confinement; this district, I am told, is a kind of market for stolen goods, as well as a receptacle of all sorts of idle and profligate company. No place abounds more with dissolute persons of both sexes than Marseilles, and in the abundance of prostitutes, that appear in the streets, it is almost upon a par with London.

The fortifications that defend the city on the land side, are such as no military person would think able to resist the attacks of a regular army; and yet the emperor Charles the Fifth was foiled in his endeavours to break through them, and obliged to make a disgraceful retreat into Italy. Several forts guard the entrance of the harbour, and high upon the point of a mountain stands that of Notre Dame de la Garde, better known by the mention made of it in the voyage of Chapelle and Bachaumont, than by its strength, or even its image of the Madonna, the patroness of the Marseillaise sailors.

The Lazaretto is an extensive insulated building. As the Levant trade, which is the great concern of Marseilles, subjects it to the dangers of the plague, and vessels are continually arriving from the suspicious ports of Asia and Africa, the greatest care is necessary to prevent this exterminating contagion from being communicated by any infected ship. The laws of quarantine are no where better regulated, or more strictly enforced, than in this Lazaretto; nor is this to be wondered at, for the desolation of the year 1720 may be said to be yet fresh in the memory of the inhabitants; some survivors remain to paint the horrid scene, and keep alive the fears of those that are too young to have been witnesses of that dreadful visitation of the hand of God. Above sixty thousand persons died of the disorder in the city of Marseilles; but the loss has been repaired, and it now reckons near ninety thousand souls within its walls. Of this multitude almost every individual appears to have a concern in trade: I never saw a seaport, where there was so much noise and bustle, but indeed I know no people of so lively, clamorous a turn, or so prone to boisterous joy, as that of Marseilles. The Provençal is all alive, and feels his nerves agitated in a supreme degree by accidents

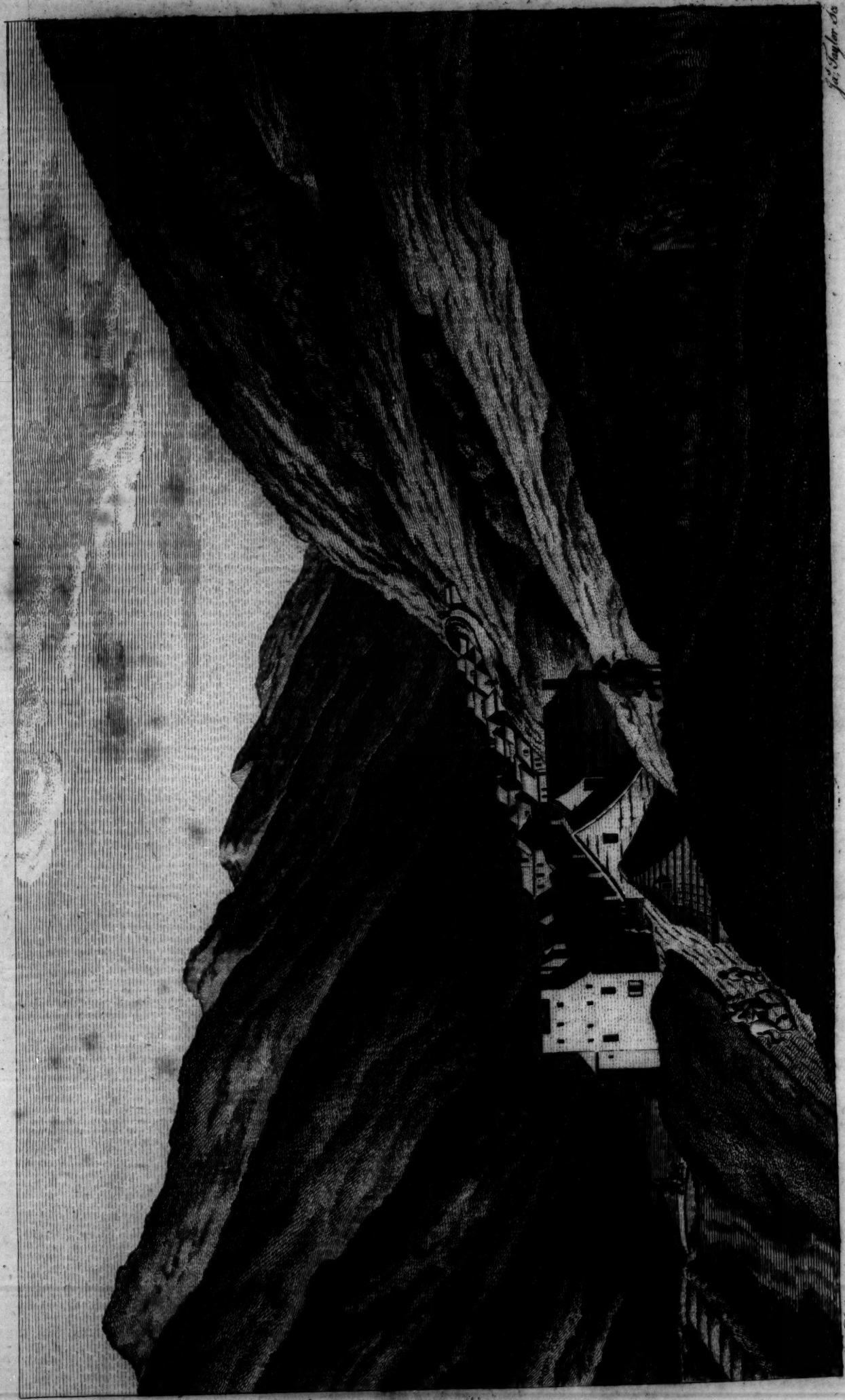
accidents and objects that would scarce move a muscle or a feature in the phlegmatic natives of more northern climes; his spirits are flurried by the slightest sensations of pleasure or of pain, and seem always on the watch to seize the transient impressions of either; but to balance this destructive propensity, nature has wisely rendered it difficult for those impressions to sink into their souls; they easily receive, but as easily discard and forget, thus daily offering a surface smoothed afresh for new pains and pleasures to trace their light affections upon. But this by no means excludes warm attachments and solid friendships; when time and habit afford leisure for the impression to penetrate deep enough, it will, no doubt, acquire and retain as firm a hold in their breast as in any other, and perhaps be stamped with still greater warmth and energy.

The commerce of Marseilles is divided into a multiplicity of branches; a variety of commodities are fabricated here, or brought from the other ports and inland provinces of France to be exported, and numerous articles of traffic are landed here in order to be dispersed in this and other kingdoms. It is presumed that one year with another business is transacted upon this exchange for near fifteen millions sterling. The exports to the Levant amount annually to thirty-one millions of livres; the imports from thence are valued at fifty. Those from the West Indies and Cayenne are calculated at seventeen millions of exports, and twenty-one of imports. About three millions and a half are employed in the East-India trade, six in the corn trade, and about twenty-nine in that with Spain and the rest of Europe. Four millions worth of salt cod and train oil comes from North America; oils from Sicily, &c. to the amount of fourteen millions, exported again in soap to nearly the same value; as also various manufactures to the amount of two millions and an half. Add to this circulation the dealings in insurances, and profits upon bullion, and you will have a rough, but comprehensive sketch of the commerce of Marseilles.

CONTINUED







BAREGES.

200-1118



INDEX OF PLACES,

IN THE JOURNEY FROM

BAYONNE to MARSEILLES.

A
 Abbe of Escaldiou, 32
 ——— St. Victor, 73
 Adour river, 7, 11, 12, 16
 Aiguemortes, 47
 Aix, 55 66, 70
 Amphitheatre of Arles, 57
 ——— Nimes, 48
 ——— Orange 68
 ——— Toulouse, 33
 Arch, triumphal, of Orange,
 66
 ——— St. Remy,
 68
 Arles, 55, 57
 Arreou, 30
 Asté, 15
 Avignon, 61
 Aune river, 31

B
 Bagnères de Bigorre, 12,
 13
 Bagnères de Luchon, 29,
 31
 Baston river, 17, 18
 Baths of Bagnères de Bi-
 gorre, 14
 ——— Bagnères de Lu-
 chon, 30
 Baths of Cauterets, 23
 ——— Aix, 70
 ——— S. Sauveur, 18
 ——— Bareges, 17
 Bareges, 17
 Bayonne, 6, 7
 Bear-hunting, 30
 Betharan, 23
 Beziers, 40
 Bidassoa river, 6
 Botanical garden, 43
 Bridge of Avignon, 61
 ——— Arles, 55
 ——— Toulouse, 34
 Bull-fights, 57

C
 Campan, 16
 Canal of Languedoc, 36

Camargue island, 55
 Carcassonne, 36
 Cauterets, 23
 Citadel of Montpellier, 44
 Cloth manufacture, 25
 Cours of Orbitelle, 70
 ——— Marseilles, 73

D
 Dufance river, 68

E
 Eliscamps, 58

F
 Fountain of Nimes, 49

G
 Gabarnie, 28
 Gardon river, 59
 Garonne river, 31
 Gave river, 26
 Gedres, 19
 Grip, 16

H
 Husbandry, 13

I
 Inquisition, 35

L
 Lambese, 69
 Larros river, 32
 Lake of Magredonne, 41
 Lers river, 46
 Lieris mountain, 15
 Lourdes, 23
 Lund, 47

M
 Maguelonne lake, 41
 Malpas, 39
 Marseilles, 70
 Mauvesin, 31
 Mausoleum of S. Remy,
 68
 ——— of Arles, 58
 Medals of Avignon 66, 9
 Mature of Escout, 26

Montpellier, 41

N
 Narbonne, 39
 Nimes, 47, 53
 Ninette river, 5
 Nive river, 7

O
 Obelisk at Arles, 57
 Oleron, 25
 Orange, 65
 Orbe river, 36
 Orthez

P
 Pau, 24
 Peyrou of Montpellier, 41
 Pezenas, 41
 Plague of Marseilles, 58
 Pic du Midy mountain, 27
 Pont du Gard, 59
 Pyrenean mountains, 6

R
 Rhone river, 55, 61

S
 St. Bertrand, 31
 St. Loup mountain, 46
 St. Remy, 68
 St. Sauveur, 18
 St. Jean de Luz, 5
 Snow bridge, 21
 Sourgue river,
 States of Languedoc, 42
 ——— Bearn, 24
 ——— Bigorre, 8
 ——— Provence, 69

T
 Tarbes, 8, 10
 Temples of Nimes, 49
 ——— Arles, 56, 57
 Theatre of Orange, 66
 Toulouse, 33
 Tour Magne, 49

V
 Vaucluse, 65

INDEX OF PERSONS,

IN THE JOURNEY FROM

BAYONNE TO MARSEILLES.

A
Grippa, Marcus, Roman general, 48
Argens (Marquis d') author, 70

B
Basques, a people, 6
Benezet, St. 61
Benedict XII. pope, 62
Bigorrians, a people, 9
Boson, king of Arles, 56

C
Catherine, queen of France 44
Charlemagne, emperor, 44
Charles, earl of Provence, 56
Charles Martel, 33, 49
Charles V. emperor, 47
Constantine, emperor, 55
Constantius, emperor, 57
Clemence Isaire, 35

F
Francis I. king of France, 47, 62

G
Gregory XI. pope, 63

H
Henry IV. king of France, 23
Honorius, emperor, 55

J
Joan, queen of Naples, 63
John XXII. pope, 62

L
Laura de Sade, 62
Lewis, St. king of France, 39, 47
Lewis XI. king of France, 36
Lewis XIII. king of France, 44
Lewis XIV. king of France, 24, 66

M
Margaret queen of Navarre, 30

Marius, C. consul, 66
Montfort, Simon de, 38
Montfort, Amaury de, 33
Montmorency, Henry de 36
Petrarch, 62

P
Philip the Hardy, king of France, 63
Phoceans, a people
Puget, sculptor, 73

R
Raymond, earl of Toulouse, 33
Réné, king of Naples, 62
Riquet, Paul, 36
Richelieu, cardinal, 36, 57

S
Sextius, C. consul, 70



